crickel reports

A VIP TRIF TO LE MANS ITH PORSCHE CAR 97, PAGE 5

OUR HOUSE LABOUR

The prospects WEEKEND MONEY

SEXIEST MAN IN CINEMA Sean Bean interview

MAGAZINE

THE TIMES FOR ONLY EVERY

MONDAY

PLUS INSIDE: WEEKEND, 1015 FOR YOUNG TIMES READERS AND

Rank-and-file support for Hague

Local Tories demand vote on leadership

local Conservative associations over the conduct of the party's leadership contest is threatening to undermine the outcome, which will be decided by 164 MPs in a secret

A Times survey of 80 constituency associations has found almost unanimous support for-an urgent overhaul of the rules to give them a direct say in the choice of leader.

William Hague, 36, the Magic rerged as the overwhelming and-file to succeed John Major. The former Welsh Secretary secured the support of more than half the association chairmen who were willing to name their pre-

Kenneth Clarke, the former Chancellor, and Michael loward, the former Home Secretary, received no backing. Support for John Redwood. Peter filley, and Stephen Dorrell was evenly

matched. The deepening anger among activists over their exclusion from the leadership process has caused concern at Conservative Central Office. Senior party officials already ared that the absence in the

naliot of any Tory MPs from Fales or Scotland, and only he from Birmingham, would be exploited by Labour. They will paint us as an English regional party, said one offi-cial last night.

The dispute was fuelled vesterday by the intervention jof Robin Hodgson, the chairman of the National Union, which is responsible for the voluntary wing of the party and is based at Central Office.



Lord Blake: "Reform is long overdue"

at One that there should be a change in the election rules to give local parties a 20 per cent share of the vote in leadership contests. He said the change could be introduced in time to pick John Major's successor.

We have a mechanism for doing it, and it requires the benchers to decide that they would like to send this signal. Whether they do or don't, that is up to them," Mr Hodgson

The National Union, which has 300,000 members, has launched a consultation process. One proposal is that, in return for a role in party leadership contests, local associations would lose their exclusive say in the choice of

constituency candidates.

Tory MPs engage in a consultation process with their local associations before they cast their vote in leadership contests. Many chairmen contacted by The Times feared.

our own say," said one chair-

man last night. Sir Norman Fowler, the former Tory party chairman, and Lord Archer of Westonsuper-Mare, a former deputy chairman, have backed the

rebellion.

Lord Blake, the Tory party historian and constitutionalist, also urged the party to change or run the risk of alienating its supporters.

The time for reform is long overdue," he said. "The National Union was set up in the days of Disraeli. While the members are consulted, they have never had a direct say in the selection of their leader. Sir Edward Heath was the

first leader to be chosen by a ballot of MPs in 1965. His election replaced the system in which the party leader was chosen by party grandees.

Lord Blake said: Times have changed and the Conservative Party must change with them. The absence of MPs in large tracts of the United Kingdom has made the need for a review all the more

urgent.
The Labour Party has modernised It is time for the Conservatives to follow suit. I suspect it is too late for the next contest. But it should be the last one where MPs, and MPs alone, choose the leader of the Conservative Party."

Sir Norman, the sole surviving Tory MP in Birmingham, said the local constituency associations could inspire the Tory fightback. However, the absence of any Tory MPs in major cities such as Liverpool,



Spice Girls Geri and Emma arriving at Manchester Opera House yesterday to rehearse for the Prince's Trust 21st anniversary celebration

Girl power spices up Prince's evening

BY RUSSELL JENKINS

THE Spice Girls sang live last night for the first time on a British stage to show they can perform their complicated harmonies without the aid of back-

ing tapes. They started their Manchester show in fine style, ambushing the Prince of Wales during the "line-up" presenta-tion before their gala performance for the 21st anniversary of the Prince's Trust. Mel B and Geri left the line and simultaneously kissed the Prince, leaving big lipstick marks on his cheeks and the rest of his face just as red. They then asked him if they could come to dinner at the palace some time: his

reply is not known.

The "girl power" singing demonstration, aimed at silencing critics who claim they are an over-hyped studio phenomenon, came at the end of the gala performance. The all-girl band has to move only one further down the line of succession from the Prince of Wales before they reach their biggest royal fan: Geri, Victoria, Emma, Mel C

and Mel B are Prince William's

favourite group. They topped the bill with Phil Collins, Julian Clary, Michael Barrymore and Jennifer Aniston, a star of

the American sitcom Friends. Security was tight around Manchester's Opera House where the Spice Girls' usual audience of screaming teenagers was replaced by the North West's showbusiness "aristocracy", all in black tie and evening dress and paying £175 a ticket. Extra police were drafted in to control the crowds "star

spotting" outside the venue on Quay Street and, earlier in the day, the auditorium and surrounding areas were checked with high-tech equip-

ment and sniffer dogs.

The girls met the Prince again at the end of the concert, which was hosted by Sir David Frost and Joanna Lumley. They left little to chance for a performance that was taking on much more importance than a mimed rendition of their latest hit. They rehearsed their routine at the Apollo Theatre, Ardwick



parliamentary reforms after he abolished the twice weekly Commons spectacle of Prime Minister's question time. The Prime Minister aban-

doned the system, introduced in 1961, of two 15-minute sessions a week, replacing them with a single half-hour session each Wednesday. Mr Blair and John Major

have both been dismayed at the poor quality of question

The Times on the Internet http://www.the-times.co.uk



leaders have appealed to backbenchers to show restraint.

However, the sessions in the final days of the last Parlia-ment provoked the most biner exchanges between Mr Major and Mr Blair and prompted MPs to dismiss the sessions as a waste of time. The changes, which begin

on May 21, will be followed by a detailed study of Commons procedures by a select committee set up to investigate further reforms to question time and Prime Minister's questions.

The announcement is the first of a raft of Commons reforms that Labour plans to introduce. Among proposals to be examined are plans for a "constituency week" in which MPs can arrange meetings with constituents, a shorter summer recess, more opportunities for MPs to question ministers during recess and an end to legislation running out of Commons time at the end of a parliamentary

The speed with which Mr Blair introduced the changes, and his decision not to consult MPs before announcing the reforms, drew strong criticism

consult MPs amounted to a breach of Commons convention. "The Prime Minister's question time is very much a matter for the Prime Minister. MPs can make their views known to the special commit-Mr Major voiced concern

over the "arbitrary" nature of the changes. William Hague, one of the Tory leadership candidates, said: "It's plain that Mr Blair is going to try to bulldoze through his policies without giving MPs the chance to put him to test."

The promise of further reforms to Prime Minister's questions also prompted fears among some MPs that Labour might end the system under which the Leader of Government receives no advance notice of questions. MPs are also worried that

the Prime Minister might introduce a similar system to that used for Commons questions to ministers, under which members table questions days in advance, but are allowed a supplementary question on the same issue.

Happy eaters tuck into a big Chinese FROM JONATHAN MIRSKY IN HONG KONG CHRIS PATTEN and Helmut Kohl, two of the mightiest eaters among world leaders. yesterday demolished one of

Chris Patten and Helmut Kohl in action yesterday

the mightiest meals Hong Kong could provide. Although many here think a second Anschluss will occur on July 1, the colony's Governor and the German Chancellor forgot dull cares and wolfed down the "Guangdong Deluxe Dim Sum* lunch at Yung Kee's, Hong Kong's most famous goose restau-rant. The himalayas of roast goose served in its many variations there would make a trencherman like Herr Kohl

The £30 menu, with spelling mistakes, was: steamed dumpling with crab spawns:

weep with greedy pleasure.

steamed shrimps in dumpling; steamed vegetable and pork in dumpling; steamed egg yolk and sweet cream in bun; deep fried turnip balls: deep fried chopped crab meat: steamed scallop in dumpling: fried dumpling: roasted goose; fresh shredded seafood and bean curd soup; fresh lobster ball and yelloe fuguns: mushroom with fresh vegetable: steamed fresh garoupa: crabmeat with noodle in soup: deluxe dessert and seasonal fruit platter, washed down with Tsingtao beer, from a north Chinese brewery founded in the last century by Germans. Afterwards, feeling peckish, Mr Patten stopped off at his favourite bakery for egg

falling two and half pfennigs to DM2.4721 as the US dollar also lost ground against the mark and the Japanese

Shares again at

record high

royal anniversary The Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh visited the Royal Mint at Liantrisant and struck two gold crown coins to mark their 50th wedding anniversary. They also went to Aberian and met survivors of the 1966 disaster.

It is the first time in the history of modern UK coinage that the monarch's effigy does not appear alone on a coin. A version with a face value of £5 will be available nearer the annivesary, on November 20





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Agreement can be reached at EU summit, says Cook

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THE new diplomacy towards the European Union was already reaping rewards and would lead to the Government reaching a deal with its EU partners at the Amsterdam summit, Robin Cook, the Foreign Secretary, said yesterday.

Speaking after a two-hour meeting at Downing Street between Tony Blair and Wim Kok, the Dutch Prime Minister, who will host next month's talks, Mr Cook said that Mr Blair was in a strong, authoritative position in Europe and that the Government was confident of securing the retention of UK border controls at the signing of the proposed EU treaty. Britain now negotiates from strength in Westminster and with respect in Europe."

The London meeting, held

at Mr Kok's request, ended a hectic first week as Prime Minister for Mr Blair who was told yesterday that President Clinton will extend his visit to Europe at the end of this month to pay a visit to Downing Street. Mr Cook claimed that

Labour's willingness to sign up to the social chapter of the Maastricht treaty marked a breakthrough in Britain's re-

Wim Kok: said that compromise needed

lationship with its European partners which would be fol-

trois, and Mr Kok admitted that "burning issues" remained to be resolved before agreement could be reached in Amsterdam. Mr Cook is pressing for a legal commitment from EU member coun-

lowed by greater co-operation. insisted that Britain would not bow to pressure to give up the country's external border con-

Dobson orders early end to 'two-tier' NHS

By Ian Murray, medical correspondent

AN IMMEDIATE start is to be made on dismantling many of the key NHS reforms introduced by the Conservatives. Frank Dobson, the Health Secretary, announced yesterday that he wants an action plan drawn up through the summer and autumn to get rid of the internal market

He has asked Alan Langlands, the NHS chief executive, to draw up "with vigour" plan to slash bureaucracy. abolish efficiency targets and end the "two-tierism" he believes gives unfair advantages to fundholding GPs. He said: where the so-called internal market, in which GP enjoy unfair advantages.

fundholders and health authorities buy services from NHS trusts, has led to a twotier health service."

Mr Dobson, speaking to officials at the NHS Executive headquarters in Leeds, promised not to introduce wholesale reforms on the 1989 scale: "The imposition of further upheaval could not be justified in terms of cost alone. More importantly, it would be confusing for the public and grossly unfair

Among changes promised almost immediately were a review of the way resources were split between primary There are examples galore and secondary care, and steps to ensure fundholders did not



Lenny Lottery goes for jackpot with rival paper

By CAROL MIDGLEY, MEDIA CORRESPONDENT

FRESH battle between Britain's warring tabloids yesterday after erunted Lenny Lottery. The Sun's prized National Lottery corrspondent, decided to try his luck at the Mirror.

Executives at The Sun were consulting copyright and trademark lawyers over the poaching of Lenny Lottery reporter Aidan McGurran. — who changed his name by deed poll in 1994 when the character was invented by Stuart Higgins, Editor of.

The Sun. Since then he has starred in promotional videos and made many television appearances. He started the balls rolling on the BBC's live Christmas lottery show.

Mirror executives, cock-ahoop at luring such a figure from their rival, are understood to be intending to use the name as their own. The name was technically tradea person cannot be stopped from using his own name, it the winning team and I feel

taken. pleased about this at all." an insider said.

It was understood last night that The Sun was intending to rename Brian Flynn, its new lottery corres pondent, Sir Lenny Lottery.

There is also expected to be tussie over the original costume — a white suit decorated with red balls which Lenny Lottery wore for guest appearances and was rumoured to have cost The Sun £1,000. The costume is now hanging in his wardrobe in Billericay, Essex. Piers Morgan, Editor of the Mirror, said last night. It

is correct that Mr. Lottery has today joined the Mirror. He will continue to use his name, on which he has full copy-right, although in the office we may refer to him by his full name of Leonard Lottery. since we feel he has moved

pointment. "I want to be on is unlikely legal action can be like I have won the jackpot."

unhappy that Mr Redwood might offer Kenneth Clarke, a

RUC'did not stop fatal beating'

Nationalists yesterday ac-cused RUC officers of refusing to go to the aid of a oung Roman Catholic father as he was being beaten up by a 30-strong loyalist mob. Robert Hamili, 25, died in hospital esterday two weeks after he suffered severe head injuries in the attack at Portadown, Co Armagh.

Relatives and mends who witnessed the beating said that police remained in a Land Rover yards from the scene of the attack. John Bruton, the Irish Prime Minister, said that the circumstances sur-rounding Mr Hamill's death gave "cause for great

Abduction fear

A 14-year-old girl missing from her home in Wool-wich; southeast London, since Sunday may have been abducted, police believe. The parents of Kirsty Tidman said that her disappearance was totally out of character. Officers arrested a 30-year-old man in connection with the case on Wednesday but he was released the following day pending further inqui-ries. Kirsty was last seen wearing a grey tracksuit and black trainers.

Seal ceremony

Donald Dewar, the Scottish Secretary, was sworn in to the ancient office of Lord Keeper of the Great Seal at the High Court in Edinburgh. Swearing alle-giance to the Queen and her heirs, he became the first Labour MP in 21 years to be appointed as guardian of the seal of Scottish kings. First used by Duncan il in 1094, the seal authenticated all state documents until the Act of Union with England was passed in 1707.

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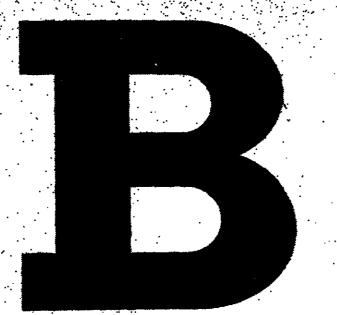
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School protest

More than 100 pupils broke windows and set off fire alarms and extinguishers at Montgomery School in Sturry, Kent, in protest at the redundancy of five teachers. Rodney Freakes, the headmaster, praised the pupils' loyalty to their teachers and said that their concern would be noted. but he said that the school needed to lose staff because of a £155,000 deficit in this year's budget. The school became grant-maintained four years ago.

Rape verdict

A freelance journalist who refused to stop having sex with a £1,500-a-night prostitute after his condom slipped off was jailed for 212 years for rape. Kevin Davis, 38, from South Africa, was also found guilty of stealing the woman's fee and £500 from her purse. At the Old Bailey, Sir Lawrence Verney, QC, Recorder of London, said the well-spoken blonde aged 22, "was willing to havesexual intercourse only if a condom was used".



relaxed.



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Tory associations must lead fight, says Redwood

over the precise nature of the

compromise to be struck at

Amsterdam. Mr Kok said that

Britain's move on the social

chapter constituted "an enor-

mous step forward", but that

there were still issues to be sorted out. "We have listened

very carefully to what Prime Minister Blair and Minister

Cook said, but it would be an

exaggeration if I were to say

that it will be easy to find

solutions for all of those

Mr Kok requested the meet-

ing to establish the level of

support he can expect from

Britain under Labour in push-

ing through moves towards further EU integration. The Dutch, current holders of the

EU presidency, seem to have accepted that under Labour,

as much as under the Tories,

Britain will insist on retaining

Mr Kok said: "Compro-

mises will be needed all over

Europe. Without compro-

mises there will be no Treaty

Mr Cook said that he would

"demanding an agreement

Britain retaining those

*Our case was heard with

courtesy and we got a good

and positive response. I now

believe that it will be possible

for us to reach an agreement

at Amsterdam and we have

told the presidency that it will

be our intention to come to

Amsterdam to reach agree-

ment provided that we are

satisfied that British national

interests have been served."

that gives us a clear legal basis

border controls.

of Amsterdam."

border controls.

difficult problems," he said.

JOHN REDWOOD has appealed to every Conservative association whose MP has been defeated to appoint a political representative in their place to lead the fightback against Labour.

The former Welsh Secretary made the proposal in a letter to every constituency chair-man. He said substitute MPs and councillors should be appointed within days in constituencies that lost their MP last week and where the Conservatives no longer had any counciliors. Mr Redwood told a Westminster press conference that the party had to face up rapidly to the fact that it had been routed in Scotland. Wales, the North and large parts of the West Midlands.

"Each constituency needs someone to offer political leadership on national issues and someone on local issues. MPs and council majority or minority leaders do the job for us." he said. "Where we have neither, the constituency should choose a parliamentary and a council spokesman. Each constituency with a former Conservative MP



Redwood: said party

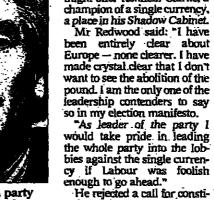
their experiences and preferences. We can utilise the help and experience of defeated MPs. We must restore a Conservative presence. We must have a Conservative voice in the media. There can

Cash, the Eurosceptic MP, not to stand for the party leadership. Mr Cash, who would probably secure only a hand-ful of votes, would take them should talk to them about from the heavyweight right-



be no wilderness zones for the Conservative Party. The fightback can begin today."

Mr Redwood also urged Bill



had too few members

candidate who had lost the confidence of the leadership. such as Neil Hamilton, who lost Tatton to Martin Bell. "If the leadership completely lost confidence in a particular MP or candidate, I'm sure that telling that MP or candidate so would have quite an impact upon their future," Mr Red-

The party's problem was that it had far too few members, he added. "I don't think that plunging ourselves into huge constitutional rows would be at all helpful."

tutional change to ensure that.

Central Office could sack a

Local Tories demand vote

Continued from page I Wolverhampton, meant the selection process had been rendered unsatisfactory.

He welcomed the National Union proposal for an electoral college. "In all conscience, that is a modest enough change, but its importance is immensely symbolic," he

wrote in The Express. However, there is strong resistance from Tory MPs, Sir Archie Hamilton, the favourite to become the next chairman of the 1922 committee of backbench MPs, which sets the rules, said: "If we extend the franchise to local party members, we would have to offer the same right to mem-

bers of the House of Lords. "It is a complicated process. On balance, I would prefer control to remain with the parliamentary party. Some-times we need to change the

leader, but the grassroots tra-ditionally remain loyal to the leader of the day whoever it

Lord Tebbit, a former party chairman, also opposed the move. "Peers would also demand a 20 per cent share of the vote. It would leave MPs, who work closely with the leader, with barely more than half the vote. It could be a disaster. We should look at the rules after a new leader is

chosen, not in the immediate aftermath of a heavy deleat." Some chairman said there could be a further haemorraging of membership if activ-

ists were excluded. Brian Grinsted, the chairman of Brighton Kemptown Conservatives whose MP of 27 years. Sir Andrew Bowden, was defeated last week, said: "Until last week I would have said unequivocally no, on the

basis that the leader has to do his or her job on the floor of the house and the best, in fact only, people who could decide were the MPs.

"Now, I have fundamentally changed my position. It would mean there was no Welsh or Scottish voice in the election of the leader. You cannot elect the leader of a national party if parts of that national party do not have a

Alistair Orr, the chairman of Stirling Conservatives, whose MP, Michael Forsyth, was one of the most highprofile casualties of the election, said: The rules have to be changed. Otherwise it will look like an English leader chosen by an English party which will hamper our recovery north of the border."

Leading article, page 23



LAYING DOWN THE LAW

Read the inside story of Tony Blair's commanding first

> week in power **PLUS** Susan Crosland interviews Gordon Brown

In Focus, tomorrow

THE SUNDAY PAPERS

The woman who kept her clothes on at Cannes

Dalya Alberge on how the world of the film starlet has changed little, even when one of them breaks the rules

THE film world was not wasting much of its creativity on real life yesterday. Starlets used the same old script to grab attention, just as producers used the same old lines

producers used the same old lines to try to grab a starlet.

But there was one surprise ending at the speeded-up version of the dating game that takes place at the Cannes Film Festival. Angie Everhart, model and would-be acress, found a way to shock everyone. She emerged almost fully dothed in public Well, really!

The publicity for Ms Ryechart The publicist for Ms Everhart. who is 27ish and a former fiancee of Sylvester Stallone, had skilfully

ensured a massive turnout at a photocall on the pier, by promis-ing that she would be wearing mething so skimpy that the skintight number worn last year by Pameia Anderson would seem like "a nun's habit". In fact the designer of Ms Everhart's feminine, flowing outfit had not saved

A mob of paparazzi arrived, surging down the pier, crushing a deckchair to bits and trampling over one another to get near her. Those at the front screamed out her name in the hope that she would flirt with their lens. Those at the back held up their cameras above their heads in the hope of



The end of the pier show: Angle Everhart at her photocall yesterday. Other starlets were using more traditional methods to seek attention at the festival

snapping something over the

That's Cannes. If you want to get noticed, wear the bare minimum, or get the publicists to suggest that you'll be doing something outrageous. Plus ça change: in the 1950s, a bikini-clad Brigitte Bardot to symbolise the town's association with sun, sea and sex.

Along the Croisette yesterday, there were several mostly blonde starlets who hoped that history would repeat itself in the traditional way. Miss Toronto, Miss Illinois. Miss Iceland and Miss Alberta — known to their families

back home as Shannon Snider, Vanessa Bednar, Berglind Olafsdottir and Erin Wilson - were on parade, flown over by the Hawaiian Tropics suncare company whose annual publicity pageant attracts more than 20,000 hopefuls. Of the 15 hand-picked by the company's founder. Rob Rice,

each dreams of being discovered by a producer, a director or a

This is a world where looking good is all that matters and fairytales do come true. Everhart is among numerous models turning actress. Claudia Schiller flew in

Abel Ferrara's thriller The Black-

Erin Wilson, 22, looked entirely at ease perched on the lap of Mr Rice. She is cute, coquettish and getting noticed, though not always by the right people. She spoke of some of the festival's more suspect

handing her their calling-cards, asking her to come up and see them some time.

Mr Rice, who seems to act as a protective father-figure for the girls, decides on whether a card is worth pursuing: 90 per cent are not worth it, he tells his girls. Ms Wilson hopes to go to the right parties to meet the right guys who can make a difference:

l'd like to be a soap opera queen." Mr Rice has strict rules about early bedtime and no boys at the house. Such is the desperation to make it that some girls — not his girls — are prepared to do anything. The men here know it, and use excruciating char-up lines. From a producer yesterday: "I'd like another child. What are you

doing tonight?"
Perhaps they've just watched too many films. But, for some actresses, such lines do work. The famous casting-couch is far from thread-bare. The problem is that it is difficult to stand out from the estimated 100,000 people who have come to the festival. Traffic is almost at a standstill as people are forced off the pavement and

Such is the desperation to see a star that, as soon as a few metal barriers are erected near a hotel or the beach, a crowd assembles in seconds. One girl among those near the Majestic Hotel yesterday said she had no idea whom she might see: she shrugged her shoulders and remained there.

I (BBC)

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icte. []

Everyone's attention was on the crowded road, for the first sight of celebrity: Stallone, The Spice Girls. Liz Hurley and Hugh Grant are among stars expected this weekend. No one is sure exactly when. Not one person was looking the other way, across the serene

Schoolboys told to wear blouses as punishment

A HEADMASTER made a group of 16-year-old boys change into girl's blouses as a punishment for having their shirts signed by friends to mark the end of their GCSE

The boys, pupils at the Cathedral School in Wakefield, had to wear the ill-fitting blouses from the school store to lessons, where they suffered the "big girl's blouse" taunts of

their classmates. Parents of some of the boys have complained about what they say is a public humiliation and are demanding an apology. But the headmaster, Stewart Martin, has refused, saying that he would not tolerate "wilful damage" to property that could set a bad example to the school's youn-

ger pupils.

About 12 boys signed the shirts as farewell momentoes. shortly before ending formal lessons and beginning study leave to prepare for their examinations this summer. It is not known how many were. ordered to change into blouses.

Pauline Smith, whose son Carl was among those made to change, said: "The punishment does not fit the crime and we will not let this drop."

Her son is 6ft 3in and 18st.

Carl was ridiculed. He is a big lad, and he is conscious of his weight. We don't want an apology for ourselves, but we

think the boys involved should

Another parent, Donald Boughton, has complained to Wakefield education authority. "I thought public humilia-tion had ended when they did away with the stocks, but obviously not," he said.

"My son lan had to wear a girl's blouse and a pullover that was ridiculously small. They went back to their classroom and all the students had a good laugh, and so did the teacher. Another teacher brought one of her students dressed similarly. Students from her class followed her to see what all the laughter was about and it escalated.

"I don't feel that humiliation like that by a headmaster is relevant at all. As a head, he may be quite good at his job generally, but he has made a mistake and he should be big enough to apologise."

Mr Martin, 47, is the first head of the school, which formed by a merger of two schools in 1993. He is known as a stickler for the rules and a disciplinarian. Although it is a Church school it has no direct link with the cathedral.

John McLeod, chief education officer for Wakefield council, said: "Matters of school discipline are for the head and governors of the school concerned and the authority does not comment on questions like this".

PC puts the brakes on riding Miss Marple bike

By Lin Jenkins

DOMINIC SAATI embraced his role as community police-man in an affluent Buckinghamshire village, determined to display the traditional virtues of being friendly, helpful

To improve communications, the parish council gave the special constable a mobile phone. However, when he asked for a bicycle, he was less than impressed to be given a girl's light blue fold-up model handed down from the 14year-old niece of a councillor. To make matters worse,

when Constable Saati, 24, refused to ride the bike for fear of being laughed at on his rounds in Hazlemere, he was branded "a sulky kid" by Maggie Wisdom, a member of the council, who said she would like to see him use the machine for a month "and then say he can't ride it". The council duly voted to force the policeman to give the bicycle a full trial before paying out £250 for the mountain bike he would have preferred.

The council confirmed that Constable Saati had told them he would rather stick to patrolling on foot than be seen on "a stupid Miss Marple-style bike". His stance has won the backing of Thames Valley Police, who said they felt unable to take up the offer of the bicyle as they doubted it provided "a suitable image for a uniformed officer".

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Hughie Green had famous 'love-child', mourners told

MOURNERS at the funeral of Hughie Green were starfled to be told yesterday that the talent-show host had sired a "love child" who is now one of the best known female personalities in British

In an irreverent oration, a lifelong friend regaled the congregation with tales of Green's energetic love life.
The exuberant creator of Opportunity Knocks enjoyed a string of mistresses in his unorthodox private life, said the friend. Noel Botham, a former correspondent for the National Enquirer. But he refused to reveal the identity of Mr Green's illegitimate celebrity daughter.

He said: "I don't know if this girl even knows that Hughie is her dad, but he used to see her on the TV or in the newspapers and say 'that' daughter of mine again."

Mr Botham said that before Mr Green died from cancer the two had agreed on what should be said at his funeral. He said that the motive for betraying details of Mr Green's sexual-conquests was to give the lie to allegations



enjoyed tangled love life

that Green had affairs with contestants on his show. Addressing the 100 mourners at the ceremony at Golders Green crematorium in north London, Mr Botham added: "Hughie knew I was going to give an address at his funeral and he knew I was going to say this and we both laughed about it."

Last night a friend of Mr Botham's said the address had been made to get Green on to the front pages for one last time. Figures from television, the stage and politics paid more traditional tributes to the man who created the television clapometer to measure audience approval. He is credited with discov-

ering performers including Freddie Starr, Frank Carson, Mary Hopkin, the Bachelors, Pam Ayres, Little and Large. Russ Abbott and Les Dawson. Another of his proteges - the former child star, Lena Zavaroni, now aged 33, described Mr Green as "a great big granddad". She said the entertainer, who died aged 77. "was always joking, always smiling ... I was very

Nigel Griffiths, a Trade and Industry Minister, said: "His place in the history of television is secure and his place in the hearts of millions of people also. This was a man who was an actor, a businessman, a pioneer in radio and TV. This was a man who captured the talent in others." Mr Green's four granddaughters and his son and daughter led the mourners in thundery rain at the cemetery. His former wife Clare, who he met when he was 15 and she

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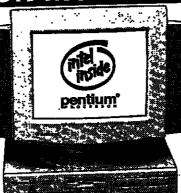
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Moneypenny is shaken but not deterred by trial

BY JOANNA BALL

TWO young men were acquitted yesterday of conspiracy to rob the woman who was the inspiration for Ian Fleming's Miss Moneypenny.

Victoire Ridsdale, 75, a for-

Victoire Ridsdale, 75, a former intelligence assistant, told Southwark Crown Court on Tuesday how she tought off a street robber, with a wellaimed kick with a high-heeled shoe after he ried to pull off her wedding ring.

her wedding ring.

Lady Ridsdale and her husband, Sir Julian, 81, a former. Tory MP, were ambushed as they returned to their home in The Boltons, Kensington, after an evening out. Lady Ridsdale's blow to the groin, launched from the passenger seat of her car, left the robber "doubled up in pain", she said. He and his accomplice, who were wearing crash helmets,

fled soon after.
Yesterday the jury found Christopher Wynter, 18, and David Stephenson, 20, not guilty. The two men, arrested after being seen on a motorcycle near the robbery scene, said that it was a case of mistaken identity.

mistaken identity.

After the verdict Lady Ridsdale said that she had no regrets about giving evidence, despite police warnings that the men could be acquitted. "I had to do my down."

had to do my duty."

She worked with Fleming during the war. As the only woman in his office, she acknowledged that she was the writer's inspiration for Miss Moneypenny, the secre-

tary of James Bond's boss, M.
Whereas in the novels Miss
Moneypenny's love for Bond
went unrequired, Lady Rids
dale suspects that in real life
the roles were reversed.
"Fleming based Bond on himself — he was the brave,
handsome spy who had
women falling at his feet," she
said. "He was always woong

ings and lipstick from strange places, but I was never taken in by his charm because I knew what he was like.

"He was always on the telephone to different women, taking them to lunch and dinner at the Ritz. He had so many girlfriends that I was not tempted to become one of them."

Of all the actors who played Bond. Sean Connery was the closest to Fleming, Lady Ridsdale said. "Fleming was very handsome and enjoyed all the fine things in life — he even drank Martinis shaken not stirred — but there was a toughness and hardness about him which Connery had."

While working with Fleming, she took part in one of the war's most ingenious operations: The Man Who Never Was. The body of a civilian dressed as a Royal Navy officer was placed in the sea carrying fake secret papers indicating that an Allied invasion of Sicily was unlikely.

Lady Ridsdale wrote the

love letters from an imaginary girifriend that were planted on the body. The Germans picked up the body was washed ashore in Spain in 1943. The operation may have saved thousands of lives when the Allies invaded Sicily that year.

She left her post when, at the age of 20, she married Sir Julian, nephew of the former Prime Minister Stanley Baldwin. They met on a tennis court at Hurlingham shortly after Sir Julian had fled Japan to avoid arrest for spying.

They married in 1942 and their daughter Penny was

They married in 1942 and their daughter Penny was born at their family home in The Boltons during an air raid Sir Julian spend 38 years as MP for Harwich. Essex, and Lady Ridsdaie, once chairman of Conservative MPs Wives, was made a



The young Lady Ridsdale and Ian Fleming, who tried to woo her with gifts of lipstick and stockings

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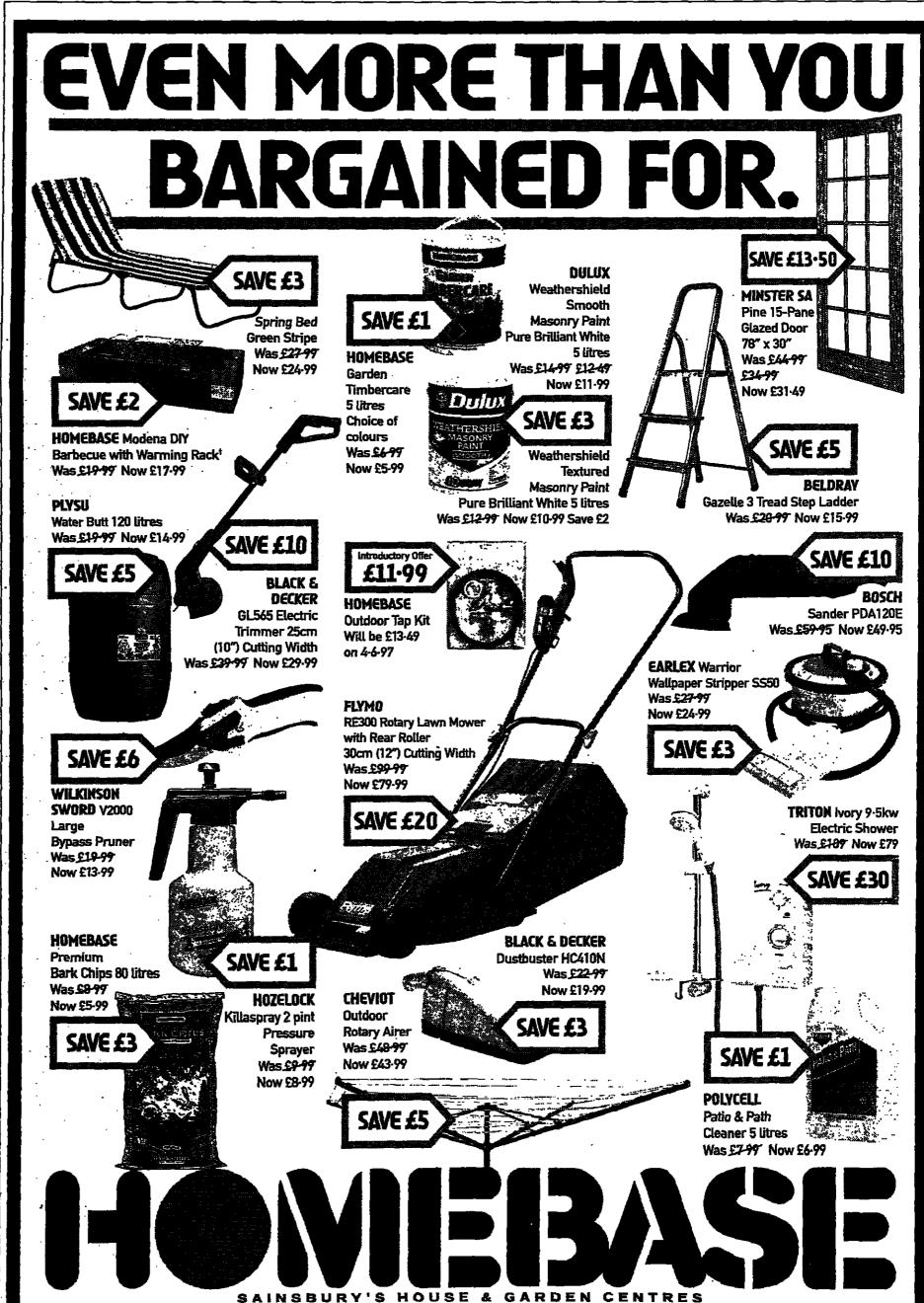
While giving evidence, she said she was able to kick her assailant hard because she was wearing a "good pair of solid high heels". The shoes, black mock-crocodile leather, were bought for her by a friend from Marks & Spencer.

"It was my first reaction to kick him and I'm glad I had the right shoes on. Good old Marks & Sparks! I have good muscles in my legs — I used to do ballet as a girl — so I managed to give him quite a kick and he doubled up in pain."

The couple say that they are not fearful of another mugging. "We have lived through bombings during the war and we had an IRA bomb up the road last year, so we're not frightened by street robbers."



Lady Ridsdale and Sir Julian. They were outside their Kensington home when she fought off two robbers who tried to steal her jewellery



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THE Queen yesterday visted Aberian, the small Welsh village whose name forever occunies a grieving corner of the nation's memory, and met survivors of the disaster of more than 30 years ago.

On October 21, 1966, a man-made mountain of coal slurry slipped in the heavy rain and buried a school, taking the lives of 110 children and 28 adults. The world in which such a disaster could happen may seem remote to future generations. These days in the region, white-gloved workers assemble television sets, the valleys are green again, and only one deep-mine colliery

The presence of the Queen, who was visiting South Wales, brought together the bereaved and the survivors for the first time in more than 30 years. Eighty people were there to shake hands with the Queen and she made a point of speaking to every one, including 12 survivors who had been

sees the first reunion of

those who lived through

the tragedy of October 1966

children at the time, and four of their former teachers. It was the Queen's third visit to Aberfan: she was on the scene eight days after the tragedy, and returned in 1973. Yesterday's meeting took place in the village community centre. Earlier, the Queen, accompanied by the Duke of Edinburgh, had visited the site of the school, now a tranquil memorial garden. where she planted a tree of

As though in memory of the original event, the sky threatened, but the forecast heavy rain, of the kind that caused the disastrous landslip, held off. The Queen, in a plumcoloured woollen coat and accompanied by Ron Davies. the new Welsh Secretary, on his first ceremonial outing since Labour's general election victory, was cheered on her walkabout by a new generation of Aberfan school-children who now live in a better world without coal tips.

Yesterday's gathering was organised by Cliff Minett, chairman of the Aberlan Memorial Committee, who lost a son and daughter in the disaster. "The Queen asked to meet survivors and bereaved people. Some were in hospital when the Queen first came here, and others were just too upset to meet her."

Howell Williams, now 56, was a PE teacher at the school



The Queen visiting Aberfan yesterday with, right, Ron Davies, the new Welsh Secretary. It was her third visit since the disaster

in 1966. He survived while children around him perished. don't think anyone has known how to cope with what happened. There was no counselling or anything like that: various individuals or groups have gone their own way. I have never been able to face some of the parents; I woke up

Lotte Ca

this morning and was not looking forward to it."

Mr Williams recalled the foggy morning when he saw the coal tip sliding towards his school, "Miraculously, I survived unhurt, yet four children by my side died instantly." Gareth Jones, now 40, was

vived. "This is only about the third or fourth time I have been back here, and I only live up the road at Merthyr. A gathering like this would not have happened without the Queen: I think it is nice that she remembers the village after all these years."

Gaynor Madgwick and Ja-

nett Smart, both now 39, stood togther to meet the Queen. They had been eightyear old classmates in 1966. One was pulled from the slurry by a grandfather, the through the school roof.

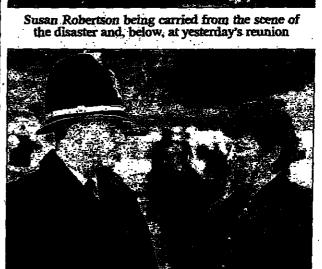
"I was completely submerged; I suffered a broken lemur and crushed hand, but I was conscious throughout," . Mrs Madgwick said. Her schoolmate recalled the rumble that sounded like an express train, clouds of steam and smoke, and an avalanche of slurry slamming through the school wall.

It was an unhappy anniversary in a year of fonder memories for the Queen, who

years on November 20. While in South Wales vesterday she also visited the Royal Mint at Llantrisant, where she and the Duke of Edinburgh struck proof copies of a commemoraheads, the first British coin of modern times to bear anything other than the monarch's head alone. The crown will have a face value of £5, but -collectors can have a gold proof edition for £645, or a

silver version at £32.50. When the Aberfan tragedy happened, she had been mar ried for only 19 years and had reigned for a mere 14. In the Queen's golden anniversary year, she is custodian of a remarkably long segment of





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Conservationists fear decision to stop the culling of predators could put birds' future at risk again

RSPB takes a chance with capercaillie's survival



By Magnus Linklater

A DECISION by the Royal Birds to end the shooting of crows and foxes on its largest Scottish estate has placed a question-mark over the future of one of Britain's rarest

The capercaillie, a magnificent, grouse-like bird the size of a small turkey, known in Scotland as the cock of the wood, has suffered a catastrophic decline in numbers over the past 20 years. From an estimated UK population of 20,000, it has fallen to less than 2,200. So grave is the risk to its future that the Rio Conference on Bio-Diversity in 1992 placed it on its list of the 117 most threatened species in the world.

Now. however, the RSPB, which has made remarkable progress since then in halting the decline, has decided that it must, for the time being, put an end to the control of predators such as crows and foxes in the forest and heather of its Abernethy reserve. For the next year or two it will allow their numbers to find a natural level.

No one yet knows what effect this will have on the capercaillie, but most experts are privately appalled at the decision. They point out that it is too early in the regeneration programme to take any risks with such an endan-

No one doubts the success of the RSPB's efforts so far. Charged with restoring caper-caillie numbers to 20,000 in Britain by the year 2010, the society has introduced an

ambitious programme on the stunning 30,000-acre mountain estate it has owned for the past ten years. In partnership with Scottish Natural Heritage, the conservation body, it has instituted a combined programme to halt and reverse the capercaillie's decline: deer culling count for the deaths of many birds, and the control of predators, including crows and foxes.

"We now believe that the capercaillie population is stapolicy in Scotland, this week told a small gathering of landowners and experts at Abernethy, a few miles south Grantown-on-Spey in Highland.

The society argues that it needs, for scientific reasons, to establish whether controlling predators makes any erence. It will stop shooting crows and foxes for the effect and then decide whether to begin controlling them again. On balance we believe it is right to go this way at present," Mr Sankey said. "All our practices are based on sound science. Our membership trusts us because we can demonstrate that whatever we do is based on scientific research. We owe it to them to show we have gone through all the hoops. But we will keep a close eye on what happenes

and review it each year.". Underlying the argument is the society's responsibility to



The RSPB has had remarkable success in reversing the decline of the capercaillie in Abernethy Forest, above left, by culling deer and predators and removing fencing

its members, now almost a million, who take a dim view of killing one species of bird to

It is aware that later this year it faces the biggest crisis in its history, when the results of a five-year experiment at Langholm in Dumfries and Galloway are published. This is expected to show that allowing predators of all

Stage set

for clash

on runway

evictions

By Russell Jenkins

PROTESTERS were drawing

up battle lines last night after a judge gave bailiffs permis-sion to clear the site of Manchester airport's pro-

The protesters immediately

appealed against possession

orders granted to the airport and developers, but District Judge David Shannon, at the High Court in Manchester, removed the last obstacle to

legal eviction when he refused

the activists a stay of

The stage is now set for a rerun of the Newbury bypass

and A30 protests, where police

and sheriff's officers spent

days or weeks evicting demon-

strators entrenched in tree-

houses and a maze of under-

One activist last night pre-dicted the Battle for Bollin

Valley would make the A30

eviction at Exeter look like a

About 50 people - half the

estimated ranks of die-hard campaigners — are already

stocking tunnels running be-

neath their treetop encamp-

ment at the end of the runway

near Styal, Cheshire. They

claim to have enough water

and food for a four-week siege

A chain fence now sur-

rounds the runway site, com-

plete with arc lights and

temporary offices. Security

forces are expected to begin the eviction within two to three

weeks. They could act within

days, before the protesters dig

themselves in deeper.

at the five main campsites.

execution.

ground tunnels.

"minor skirmish".

posed second runway.

kinds, including hirds of prey, to flourish uncontrolled leads to the virtual elimination of game birds. The society will need to explain how a healthy grouse population can be maintained without controlling raptors such as hen harriers and peregrines.

The Abernethy experiment is the other side of the coin: faced with the real possibility

Prisoners

kick drug

habit with

herbal tea

By STEWART TENDLER

INMATES at an open prison are being offered nightcaps of herbal tea to help them to give up using cannabis.

Teas on offer at Leyhill

open prison near Bristol

include camomile, red clover

blossom and vervain. Prison officials and drug workers believe the infusions will ease

the anxiety of giving up drugs. Two welfare workers

are being trained in ear

The tea was introduced after tests in the prison showed that one in five of the

prisoners smoked cannabis.

Phil Mortimore, deputy gov-

ernor, said the scheme was

working well: " I know of two

prisoners at least who have given up cannabis in favour of herbal tea — or at least

that's what they tell us."
Officials would take any rea-

sonable action to reduce

One prisoner said: The herbal tea just belps me relax.

especially last thing at night. Whereas, before, I would be

reaching for a joint, now it's

The Prison Service said

that early indications from

Leybill suggested that the

herbal tea helped in weaning

prisoners off cannabis.

The top-security prison

Whitemoor, in Cambridge-

shire, where a number of

inmates have drugs problems, has opened a drug re-

habilitation unit. The Prison

Service said that many pris-

ons offered inmates help with

such problems.

drug use, he said.

tea for me."

that the capercaillie might become extinct, the society reduced the deer population by two-thirds, allowing the heather and insect life, on lies' nests. which the capercaillie and the smaller woodland grouse depend, to thrive. It pulled down mile upon mile of forest fence

after finding that large num-

bers of birds were being

wiped out by colliding with it.

And it took the difficult decision to begin shooting the were robbing the capercail-

The result is one of the most successful species regeneration programmes in Britain. By 1993, the population of capercaillie and woodland grouse at Abernethy had stabilised. Last year saw a

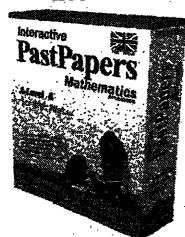
record increase in numbers. "Abernethy is bucking the national trend," a spokesman for the society said. The Forestry Commission now accepts the finding on fencing and has agreed to co-operate as far as possible in cutting down its use. Landowners, too, have agreed to do all they can to help.

though reluctant to interfere in the society's affairs, the Game Conservancy said it thought that to vary the experiment at this stage was risky. A spokesman said: "Given the national decline, we believe that habitat management and predation controi both have a part to play in restoring numbers."

at the latest decision. Al-

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Adams intends to use the House, but not his seat

By NICHOLAS WATT AND ARTHUR LEATHLEY

SINN FEIN is seeking to reap the rewards of victory at the polls with its two new MPs exploiting every facility at the House of Commons short of taking their seats in the chamber.

In a significant softening of the traditional abstentionist policy. Gerry Adams and Martin McGuinness want to set up offices at Westminster with telephone and fax lines. They also also hope to cash in on the generous travelling and secretarial expenses for MPs. The members for West Belfast and Mid-Ulster intend to make their first trip to Westminster by the end of the month to stage a high-profile press conference in which they will demand a place at the allparty talks at Stormont.

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Mr Adams, who will discuss his plans with Sinn Fein's "British desk" this weekend, said: "We will go to the House of Commons. We will use the facilities afforded to us and will utilise them to the best advantage of those who elect-

However, the Sinn Fein president, who has earned up to £200,000 from his autobiography, is unlikely to succeed in filling his party's coffers with taxpayers' money. The rules for the House of Commons. which are set out in Erskine May, say that MPs cannot collect any allowances or sala-

Sinn Fein will try to repeat its two-seat success in last week's general election by concentrating on a small number of constituencies in the Irish election expected on June 6. It will field 15 candidates, compared with the 41 it put forward in 1992. Then the party won 1.61 per cent of the vote and lost deposits in all but two seats. Gerry Adams said yesterday that the party was likely to take Cavan/ Monaghan and Louth, two horder constituencies in

which republican senti-

ments are strong. He add-

ed that Sinn Fein would

occupy any seats it won in the Irish Parliament.

ry unless they swear the oath of allegiance to the Queen. Mr Adams and Mr McGuinness, who refuse to swear the oath, will also struggle to secure offices at Westminster. The Liberal Democrats, who are in charge of allocating offices to the smaller parties, said that they would be making no great

effort to help. The refusal of the two MPs to swear the oath of allegiance means that they will each forgo a package of more than £100,000. MPs are paid a salary of £43,860; this is

supplemented by an allowance of £47.568 to cover the costs of running an office and a further £12,287 to run two homes.

Sinn Fein's new position, which Mr Adams describes as "active abstentionism", marks a significant watering down of the party's abstentionist policy, which has been a central plank of Irish republicanism this century. Some observers in Northern Ireland believe that the new policy shows that Sinn Fein is inching towards embracing constitutional politics. However, Unionists say that Sinn Fein is once again refining its old policy of "the armalite and the ballot box as it advances republicanism by increasingly sophisticated methods.

Sinn Fein's plans for Westminster cut no ice yesterday with Mo Mowlam, the Northern Ireland Secretary. Speaking during a tour of Ballymena, Co Antrim, Dr Mowlam said that Sinn Fein would show that it was still committed to the "ballot box and violence" if the party's new MPs went to Westminster before an IRA ceaseure.

She added: "I think in that sense they are trying to have playing games with democracy. I am not interested in people who play games with



Love duet: Pavarotti shows off his new partner, Nicoletta Mantovani, who has persuaded the tenor to lose weight by cutting his pasta intake

Pavarotti flies in to serenade London on a lighter note

LUCIANO PAVAROTTI arrived in London yesterday for his first recital at the Royal Opera House for 18 years (Carol Midgley writes). The celebrated tenor marked the occasion by being photographed publicly years his junior, gazed adoringly at

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for the first time with the young lover who forced him to shed three stone by limiting his pasta intake. His weight is now estimated at 21 stone. Nicoletta Mantovani, 27, who is 34

the singer as they stood together in the couple cannot marry for the sunshine outside the Hyde Park year. Pavarotti's recital on Sunday Hotel Last year Pavarotti left his wife Adua for Miss Mantovani, his Tosca as well as works by Donizetti

will include excerpts from Puccini's personal assistant, after 30 years of and Bizet. All the tickets, costing up marriage. Under Italian divorce law to £140, are sold.



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Three Navy missile systems are found to be unreliable

By Michael Evans, defence correspondent

THE Royal Navy has been forced to carry out comprehensive checks on three of its principal missile systems because of concern over their effectiveness. Although there is no technical fault common to the three systems, there are problems with reliability.

The missiles are the Sea-Dart, a ship-to-air mediumrange weapon carried in aircraft carriers and destroyers, the Sea Wolf, a high-speed defence anti-missile and antiaircraft system, fitted in most frigates, and the Sea Skua, an anti-surface ship missile, car-

ried by the Lynx helicopter. The embarrassment for the Royal Navy is that because of budget cuts and delays in maintenance programmes, all three systems are having to be checked at the same time. Missiles sold as part of warship sales to countries such as Brazil and South Korea are also having to be investigated. The Ministry of Defence re-

cently sold Brazil four Type 22 service in the 1970s. It has a Broadsword-class frigates range of 25 miles and was armed with Sea Wolf missiles. which will have to be refurbished.

However, the Navy said it tions at sea were working and would function "if there is a war tomorrow"...

The Navy spokesman said: "The fact that all three systems are being refurbished at the same time is due to unavoidable consequences." All missile systems had to be maintained to "extremely high standards of safety and serviceability".

The spokesman said that missiles were all test-fired before they were fitted in warships for operational duties. "Ships now at sea all have has a range of more than 12 full war loads of missiles," he miles. It was said to have only

The Sea Dart is the oldest of the weapons, designed in the 1960s and introduced into

used successfully in the Falklands War in 1982. Royal Navy sources said that the Sea Dart was at the end of its operationwas confident that the missiles all effectiveness but had to be on board warships on opera- kept going until well into the

The Sea Wolf, introduced in the 1980s, has been updated. There is a faster vertically launched version fitted to the Navy's Type 23 frigates which will be unaffected by the refurbishment programme. However, there was a prob lem with the older model of the close range weapon.

The Sea Skua, which was developed just in time for the Falklands War and was launched against Iraqi naval vessels in the 1991 Gulf War, minor problems.

The Navy would not say how much the refurbishment brogramme will cost



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Jennifer Murray and the single-engine piston that carries her hopes

IT WAS a routine problem for an executive wife. Jennifer Murray's husband had treated himself to an expensive new toy, but did not have the time to use it. So she decided to have a go herself. It was a

Today the 56-year-old grandmother sets off to try to become the first woman to fly a small helicopter around the world. She admits: "It's

Mrs Murray plans to stop in 26 countries in 97 days, risking desert sandstorms and tropica! monsoons on the 24,000-mile route. With her co-pilot, Quentin Smith, 32, she took a Royal Navy survival course in which they went through a simulated crashlanding in water.

Aboard their £170,000 American-built four-seater Robinson R44, two seats have made way for an extra 70gallon fuel tank which will slow them down but ensure that they can go up to 800 miles on a single stretch. They are also carrying a dinghy with an insulated floor and roof, and will fly in thermalsuits, ready to survive in freezing conditions in the event of a mechanical failure. Mrs Murray's husband,

Simon, is chairman of Deutsche Bank in Hong Kong. The Murrays are friends of Chris Patten, the Governor of Hong Kong, who will greet her when she flies from Taiwan -where her grandchildren live - to the colony on June 24 in time for the handover to

Mrs Murray said of her husband: "It's all his fault. We bought a half-share in a helicopter but he didn't have time to learn to fly it, so he suggested I learn. Now I really have the bug."

After flying for more than three years, she "jokingly" said that they should try a trip around the world. She was taken seriously and planning began in December. Mr Murray can now fly, but he is too busy to make the global trip and will instead meet her on

She said: "It's such a crazy challenge. This has never been done before in such a the first woman to attempt it." Other round-the-world helicopter trips were in larger-

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Preparing to fly the round-world route, below



hamshire, should lead first to capacity craft and flown by men. An American, backed by Paris, Cannes and Naples, then on to Alexandria, the Bell helicopter company, flew the world in 17 days.

Jeddah, Oman, Karachi. Del-Today's take-off from hi, Rangoon, Singapore, Bronei, Taiwan, Hong Kong, Tokyo, the Baring Straits, Durdent Court, at the end of Denham airfield in Bucking-

les, across the United States to New York, then home via iceland.

Mrs Murray has two grand-daughters, aged three and one, living in Taiwan with her son, Justin, and his Chinese wife. One of her concerns is that, if she is delayed on any part of her trip, she will face problems in certain countries which have agreed landing rights at specified times: "We may find we arrive late and the airport is closed to us."

However, the weather will be their greatest challenge: : We'll be flying over deserts when there could be sandstorms and, in the Philippines and Malaysia, it will be the monsoon period."

Mr Smith, an experienced pilot, pointed out that the helicopter had no air conditioning: "When we're flying over deserts, it will be like sitting in a greenhouse."

The trip is costing hun dreds of thousands of pounds and they have succeeded in meeting about half the cost through sponsorship from Cathay Pacific. They hope to raise about £500,000 for Save

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Children defeated in legal fight for swimming pool By Kathryn Knight

SEVEN children failed yesterday in their attempt to take their council to court over a broken promise to build a leisure centre and swimming pool. Mr Justice Latham ruled that the children, from Colliers Wood, southwest London, could not seek judicial review as their case was bound to fail".

The children, aged 3 to 14. had argued in the High Court that Merton council had made an unlawful decision to allow Sainsbury's to drop its original promise to build a leisure development for the community when it opened a new

the site intended for the pool:

Richard Gordon, QC, for the

children, said that, after the

store opened in February 1989.

the swimming pool failed to

materialise and the supermar-

ket chiefs admitted they had

In 1993 Merton council

agreed to change the terms of

the agreement allowing

Sainsbury to our money into

requiring it to build the pool.

Local people had not been

allowed to attend the meeting,

other projects and no longer

no intention of building it.

Savacentre. Instead the deal, reached in April 1986, was replaced by a PRG-LOGIC HI-FI plan for a drive-firrough McDonald's and bingo hall on

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Mr Gordon said. Three years later, parents and children heard that planning permission had been granted for a bingo hall and drive-through

McDonald's on the site. Mr Gordon said that the council had created a "hotchpotch" of planning rules.

Rejecting the application, Mr Justice Latham said that. although there was an arguable case" on planning law, the council had acted legally when it made a policy change in 1993 and allowed Sainsbury to drop the leisure centre. Outside court. John Barke

father of Harry, 7, and Kate, 4, said that they hoped to appeal.
Why enter into an agreement if it's unenforceable? If the residents of Colliers Wood had known about this ten years wouldn't be up. All we've been offered is fast food and gambling. That's what they see as our children's future." Harry said: "It's disgusting. They promised us a swimming pool ten years ago and now they're

changing their minds." Danny Connellan, chair-man of Merton planning committee said the council had tried to get the best deal for the community after realising the badly drafted to enforce.

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would not to do so.
The company said that, alter an emergency board meet-ing, designers were working on a range of items. "We were surprised by the public reaction," a spokeswoman said.

Appeal refused

The father of the snooker player Ronnie O'Sullivan was refused leave to appeal against his conviction for murder. Ronald O'Sullivan, 43, was jailed for life in 1992 at the Old Bailey for stabbing Bruce Bryan, a driver for the Kray in a racially motivated attack at a Chelsea nightclub.

Contempt case

The High Court granted John Morris, QC, the Attorney-General, leave to bring contempt proceedings against the London Evening Standard over a report that led to the trial of six alleged fugitives from Whitemoor prison being abandoned. The paper printed photographs and referred to the defendants' IRA links.

Butterfly survey

A two-year survey was launched to try to halt the decline of the pearl-bordered fritillary, one of Britain's 116 most endangered species of plants and animals. The survev, by Butterfly Conservation, aims to locate all colonies of the insect and to identify the habitats best suited for its

Vaughan award The singer Frankie Vaughan.

67, received the insignia of the CBE from the Prince of Wales at Buckingham Palace. He was honoured for his singing and for his work with the National Association of Boys' Clubs. He said later: "It's just wonderful. Prince Charles asked how my voice was and if

Defeated Tories rent their homes to Labour MPs

By Polly Newton and Stephen Farrell

NEW MPs have begun combing the streets of Westminster and beyond for affordable homes convenient for Parliament. One even plans to take

Candy Atherton, who bear Sebastian Coe to win the Falmouth and Camborne seat for Labour, hopes to buy a narrowboat today. She will then have to find a convenient mooring. Ms Atherton, a former mayor of Islington, lived on a narrowboat moored in the borough for six years until

"It was my little bit of sanity in the city," she said. "There is something about being near water ... Being the MP for Falmouth and Camborne, I'm a bit more used to it."

Her colleagues seeking homes on dry land have found one potentially fruitful source: defeated Tory MPs with properties to let. Hazel Blears, Labour MP for Salford, began her search at Dolphin Square, the riverside development. where annual rents range from £5,000 to £20,000 and there is a 12-month waiting

She had a tip-off from a friend in the Commons that several Conservatives were moving out, "I bumped into

"我是我们的是我们的是 1995年,我们们的是我们的是

chance. I've told lots of others," she said. The family coffers needed to be raided for the deposit: "I have had to borrow it from my mum."

Kali Mountford, the new Labour member for Coine Valley, said that she would be staying with friends at least until the arrival of her salary cheque at the end of the month. "I was unemployed for a year before the election and I've got no money."

Standing next to her, Dari Taylor, Labour's new MP for Stockton South, immediately offered either a bed or floor space in the flat in Pimlico that she hopes to take over from the former Labour MP Jack Thompson.

Estate agents report a stream of calls from outgoing Tory MPs anxious to sell or to let. Some have already placed £25 classified advertisements in Parliament's in-house

Teresa Gorman, despite holding her. Billericay seat, has relet her £750,000 threebedroom house in Lord North Street for £650 a week since the election.

Jonathan Male, of the Kennington agents Daniel Smith, received the first of three calls from Tory MPs him in the lift. It was pure wanting to sell their flats the

> ly been converted into apartments and a hotel. A spokesman for the mangement company said that there had been a rush of inquiries about letting the remaining one and two-bed-

room flats since the election. However, as the new intake rued their lack of preparation. Vicky Cotterell, of Dauntons Residential in Pimlico, said that some Conservatives had hedged their bets months

day after the election. Adrian

Owen, manager of Hamptons

International in Pimlico, took

calls from several Tories, in-

cluding one former Cabinet

minister, wanting to let. He said: "With the market

nising, most Tory MPs with

places in Westminster are

hanging on to them as invest-

ments. They can get £200 a

week for a one-bedroom stu-

dio flat and up to £2,000 a week for a large Westminster

"We have had a few inqui-

ries from new Labour MPs on

the sales side, but generally it

is their press secretaries and

personal assistants looking for

lettings without giving names.

They don't particularly want

to be seen buying flats for £150,000 — which is what

they'll need for a nice one-bedroom pied-d-terre north of

Of course they could go south for about £80,000 to £120,000. Kennington has

some beautiful Georgian

places but it's riddled with

council estates - which might

be more politically correct for

Labour winners with a nos-

talgic bent have tried to move to County Hall, formerly the

party's spiritual London home

as headquarters of the Greater London Council. It has recent-

them, of course."

"Quite a few gave two months' notice at the beginning of the year because they knew something was up. They went off to stay at their gentlemen's clubs until the lection, until they saw how things turned out. Some were planning to buy places, if they won, but obviously not now,"



New Labour, old Humphrey: Cheric Blair with the Downing Street cat who first worked with Mrs Thatcher

Blairs keep Humphrey in the picture

By Emma Wilkins

DOWNING STREET'S greatest political survivor took a photocall yesterday with one of the newer arrivals, to demonstrate that he will work with new Labour. The official appearance with Cherie Blair was felt to be necessary because, despite all the other vital matters that have occupied the nation. over past week, one of the greatest issues of public concern has been the: future of Humphrey the cat. The champion movser made his

debut at 10 Downing Street in 1989 during the last years of the Thatcher Government, and his food is on the Cabinet Office budget. However, concern grew that he might have to move home after reports that the new Prime Minister's wife found cats unhygienic.

That is nonsense, as is another report that she is allergic to cats," a Downing Street spokeswomen said. "Cherie and her sister had both a cat and a dog when they were growing up. and one of the first things the children wanted to see when they moved in on

Monday was Humphrey. This is Humphrey's home and, as far as the Blairs are concerned, it will remain his home."

Humphrey, who has a fondness for chasing the ducklings in St James's Park and was recently suspected of the murder of two robins in the No 10 garden, is on a low-protein diet because of kidney problems. He disappeared in 1995 and was thought to have died, but he had taken up temporary residence at the Royal Army Medical College.

Letters, page 23

Candy Atherton, a Labour winner, is planning to buy a narrowboat as her London pied-d-terre Explore Egyptian Lake Nasser

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Ruth Gledhill finds

that a new £2.4m worship and leisure

centre reflects

the growth of

Britain's 'Bible belt' AN AMERICAN-STYLE "super church" has opened in the heart of Britain's burgeoning Bible belt. It

ment of its kind here. On Sundays, the £2.4 million King's Centre in Chessington. Surrey, will be an evangelical church welcoming hundreds of worshippers from a local community of about 20,000. During the week, the massive sports and church complex in the heart of a modern housing estate will operate as a leisure and community centre. It has been built in conjunction with Kingston upon Thames Borough Council in a rare partnership between non-established church

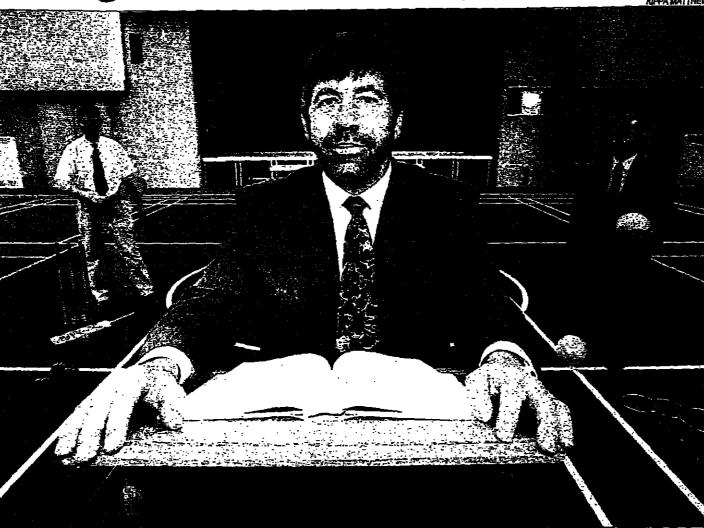
Surrey is part of a Bible belt that stretches across southeast England, where churchgoing is rising rapidly among evangelicals, offset-ting a continuing decline in other church traditions, in particular in the liberal wing. The success of the evangelical movement, which consists of some mainstream Anglican. Roman Catholic and Methodist churches, as well as rapidly growing "new" churches, is thought to be a product of a modern desire for spiritual certainties in an increasingly uncertain world.

Nationally, 28 per cent of England's 3.7 million churchgoers are evangelicals, but in pockets of Surrey, such as Guildford and Woking, nearly 50 per cent of all churchgoers would identify themselves as evangelicals. Examples of Gerald Coates's Pioneer movement, which meets weekly in a cinema in Esher, Surrey, and once a month in a sports hall in Leatherhead. Many other evangelical churches have been forced to move as they have grown.

The King's Centre is thought to be the first sports hall to be purpose-built for a church. It is conferences and other events. In

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The pastor, Trevor Archer, in the dual purpose centre with the manager, Bob Robinson, left, and fellow pastor John Tindall

being run by the Chessington Evangelical Church, which has 400 members and belongs to the Federation of Independent Evangelical Churches. Until now it has met in a community college near by.

The centre is open from Monday for arts and crafts workshops. Weekly classes include old-time dancing, tap, ballet and disco. fitness workouts, painting tuition. indoor bowls, football training. racquet sports and volleyball. There will also be youth groups. Bible classes and adult education classes covering hobbies, crafts, self-improvement and languages.

Next week, the centre will be used as an examination hall, and it is expected to be hired out for

the sports hall, where the church meets, chairs like those used at the Arlanta Olympics have been imported from the United States.

The full-time staff are all church members and the centre is owned and operated by the church under a mangement agreement with the local authority. In some respects it is comparable to American evangelical church complexes, which offer a wide range of health, social and community services as well as regular worship. However, the Chessington church leaders are anxious not to be associated with the excesses of some American evangelicalism. There are no plans

for any form of "televangelism". Keith Ewing, of the Evangelical Alliance, an umbrella group covering most of Britain's evangelical churches, said: "We have never before come across anything as radical and big as this. It is part of a wider re-engagement with the community. Churches are seeing their role as being back at the very heart of the community." Trevor Archer, the pastor, said: "This church is a hybrid. It has never been done before in this country, and some people said it could not be done."

Chessington evangelicals raised El.5 million towards the cost. Other money was donated by Christian charitable trusts and £875,000 came from the local authority.

Mark Gilks, former development director at Kingston council, said the centre had grown out of "an amazing courage and vision".

People in the secular world thought of the wider church as declining. irrelevant and housed in crumbling buildings, and of town halls as "out of date, corrupt and loony. Here is an alternative. Local authorities and churches should not be squeamish about partnerships with each other, for they are both there to share one great aim: to serve the local community.

"In this place, a child will learn to dance, a young person will learn team skills they didn't have, a lonely person will enjoy fellowship again, a single parent will receive support and a person in spiritual need will discover meaning."

At Your Service. Weekend, page 15

Parish pump and city square are twin poles of faith

Stephen Platten

"IN OBSERVING the Great. He lived the remote life of a Feast of Easter they followed doubtful rules ... being so isolated from the rest of the world." So Bede, the 8th-century church historian, wrote of St Columba, the great Celtic saint who brought the Gospel to Iona and, through his disciple St Aidan, to Northumbria.

In this year of anniversaries, we celebrate Columba, who died in 597, but we celebrate also St Augustine of Canterbury. Sent by Pope Gregory the Great to evangelise the English, he arrived in Kent in that same year. It is to them that the great pilgrimages this month and next from Rome through Canterbury to Londonderry are dedicated. It has become fashionable to

polarise the two traditions symbolised in Columba and Augustine. The Celtic mission stands for local traditions, a love of creation, the honouring of women and an attractive rhythm of prayer. The Roman mission is about order, universality, hierarchy and, in some

circles, the hegemony of Rome. The final showdown between the two was at the Synod of Whitby in 664, where there was a sell-out to the Romans. The attack was led by the singleminded, prelatical Wilfrid Bishop of York, who sent the

bucolic and misguided Celts packing. Wilfrid is not the most lovable of the English saints, but he is a good starting point if we are to unravel the truth behind this year's great

celebrations. Wilfrid was a Northumbrian, formed in the Celtic tradition under the tutelage of the godly Aldan on Lindistarne. He travelled to Rome, where he learnt of a wider world. Wilfrid represents the confluence of two traditions.

Ceitic monastery but was also inducted into the cosmopolitan world of mainland Europe.

Here lies the great contrast between the twin roots of our Christian culture. Celtic missionaries worked largely in the untarned countryside of Ireland, Scotland and Northumbria. They were atterly dependent upon the elements and the natural creation. Their loyalty to Rome was unquestioned, but local culture and a tough landscape coloured their spiritual

The Roman mission, characterised in Gregory and Augus-tine, was ordered and urban. Each city had its own bishop and the parish network covered the moribund Roman Empire. A pattern of communication, reaching all the way back to Rome. s established.

Fourteen hundred years later, we can see the essential complementarity of these two pioneering models of evangelisa tion. Columba re-

minds us to treasure our roots and thus the

ciliation and complementarily, which lie at the heart of the

example of good men of old, and God will comfort you and help you, both in this world and in the

☐ The Very Rev Stephen Platten





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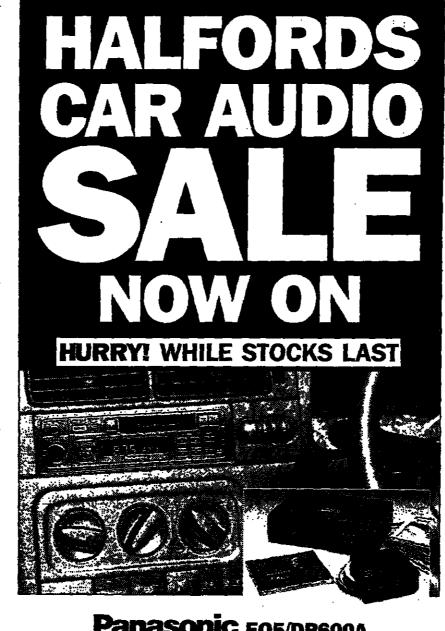
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local Church. Augustine points us to the need for unity and to the universality of both our common humanity and of the Gospei itself. If I offer Columba the last word, in the form of his deathbed prayer. it is because he

speaks of that recon-

Christian message:
See that you be at peace among yourselves, my children, and love one another, fullow the

ever pills

By Alexandra Frean, social affairs correspondent

THE descent into schizophrenia of the teenage character Joe Wicks in EastEnders has prompted thousands of calls from sufferers and their

The National Schizophrenia Fellowship said yesterday that the story on Britain's mostwidely watched programme had attracted unprecedented attention and broken society's taboo on talking about the

The gradual breakdown over several months of Joe Wicks, played by Paul Nicholls, 18, has been witnessed by up to 22 million

The fellowship said the story on the BBC soap opera had done more to break the stigma attached to schizophrenia. which affects 250,000 people in Britain, than any number of worthy media appeals.

Although Joe was diag-nosed as having schizophrenia only this week, it has been clear to EastEnders fans for months that he was descending to mental illness. He has been hearing voices and has complained about evil forces trying to get to him. lan Aldwinkle, the pro-

gramme's story editor, said that he had decided to introduce a character with schizophrenia after working on editions of the drama series



A schizophrenia bulletin praising EastEnders

Casualty, which featured violent and dramatic incidents involving people with the

"When I did the research I was shocked to discover that schizophrenia affects one in 100 people, and yet nobody ever talks about it," he said. "All you could ever do with

Casualty was the medical side of it. Because it has a continuing storyline. EastEnders was able to look as the effect that schizophrenia has on a family and on individual relationships. I wanted to humanise it and look at the emotional impact it has on people." Mr Aldwinkle said that,

entertain rather than to educate, he hoped that the Joe Wicks storyline would be helpful. "It seems to me that mental illness is one of the last subjects that you can still make jokes about without being labelled politically incorrect, and that seems wrong. "If I get just one letter from

one person saying that the character of Joe Wicks has

helped to change their life for the better, then I will be Fiona Carr, a spokeswoman for the fellowship, said that it

had received scores of telephone calls from people prais-ing the sensitive way in which the programme had portrayed

One mother who rang said she had been watching the programme in tears," Ms Carr said. "She said it was almost as if the EastEnders scriptwriters had been reading her son's case notes."

Bharat Mehta, the fellow ship's chief executive, said that EastEnders had helped to destroy the myths that schizophrema meant that a person had a split personality and that the illness was likely to make them violent. Although the media often reported cases of schizophrenics who had committed murders, studies



Paul Nicholls as Joe Wicks. The story editor wanted to humanise the illness

have shown that they are less likely to be violent than the general population. Mr Mehta said that, although schizophrenia ac-

a taboo subject. "It remains the last big counted for at least 5 per cent stigma in society. Barriers of health service spending -

more than any other single illness, including cancer or strokes, but schizophrenia is coronary disease - it was still not something that people readily talk about," he said. We hope to change that."

Aids, cancer, Alzheimer's and

Patient can sue over 25 years of wrong treatment

BY GLEN OWEN

A MAN who claims doctors wrongly diagnosed him as schizophrenic and forced him to live under the stigma of mental illness for more than years can sue his local health authority, a High Court judge ruled yesterday.

The court heard that David Piper, 49, received his diagnosis in 1966 after visiting a consultant psychiatrist em-ployed by West Kent Health Authority. He was said to be suffering from schizophrenia, depression and anxiety, and spent his nineteenth birthday in hospital.

The treatment, including electroconvulsive therapy and anti-depressant drugs, contin-ued until March 1992, when he was told that the diagnosis had been mistaken. A new assessment found him to be suffering from phobic anxiety.

Judge Geddes yesterday re-

jected the health authority's case that Mr Piper had left it too late to launch his action. Mr Piper, from Chatham. Kent, is suing for treatment received at Oakwood Hospital in Maidstone, Medway Hospital in Gillingham and Ali

Saints Hospital, Chatham, between 1966 and 1992. He claims that the health authority was negligent for making the original diagnosis and for failing to review it for 25 years. "When I found out I was not suffering from schizophrenia, I felt very bitter. I had lost all those years and I can't get them back." Mr Piper said

in his evidence. He added that he had since been weared off the drugs: "For the first time I feel fully alive." Diana Brahams, counsel for

Mr Piper, said that he had lived under the stigma of mental illness and in a state of "almost permanent hiber-nation". Medical reports showed that Mr Piper had been "simply written off" after the diagnosis, depriving him of regular employment and inhibiting him from forming lasting relationships, she said.

Mr Piper said that the drugs caused frequent stomache aches and vomiting. After a repeat diagnosis of schizophrenia in 1972, his medications were continued by his GPs. "Basically, I did as I was told. I cannot remember all of the details for the prescriptions, but the effect was that I was more or less constantly

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taking some drug or another. He had not reported his stomach pains because he was frightened he would be sent back to a mental hospital. In 1991, he consulted a solicitor after reading about compensation for addiction to Valium, one of the anti-depressants he was taking. The solicitor ar-

ranged a fresh diagnosis.
After the ruling, Miss
Brahams told the judge that
Mr Piper was negotiating with the health authority to settle the damages claim, which she later described as "substantial, probably running into six

Hay fever pills 'bigger road risk'

By Ian Murray, medical correspondent

A TIPSY driver is less of a want people driving around danger than one made drowsy by hay fever pills, according to new research. -Scientists at Surrey, Univer-

sity found that some antihistamines increased a driver's risk of an accident by a factor of four for a driver who was just over the legal alcohol limit.
These drugs work because

ITTES SALE

which causes allergic reaction but which also keeps us awake," Ian Hindmarch, of the university's human psy-chopharmacology unit, said. The ones which cause

drowsiness do so because they penetrate the barrier between the bloodstream and the brain. This means they slow reactions and cause tiredness. If we want to reduce the number of accidents, we don't

after taking these tablets." He accepted recent research showing that antihistamines that do not cause drowsiness

could be fatal to some people with heart conditions. The point is that only around 14 people died as a result of this in the course of 15 years. We need to get this in proportion. These drugs work because Recent research has shown they inhibit the histamine that 4,500 people are killed which causes allergic reaction and another 135,000 are inbut which also keeps us jured each year in the European Unionm as a result of accidents caused by people taking medicinal drugs. A third of these are people taking antihistamines that

cause drowsiness." Mr Hindmarch said that it was also dangerous to forgo medication, because a sneeze would cause a driver to shut his eyes for up to 100 yards.

Veterans pay tribute to Soviet dead

By JOHN YOUNG

VETERANS of the Arctic convoys and senior Russian officers toasted each other with vodka yesterday to launch a project to erect a London memorial to the 26 million people of the former Soviet Union who died in the

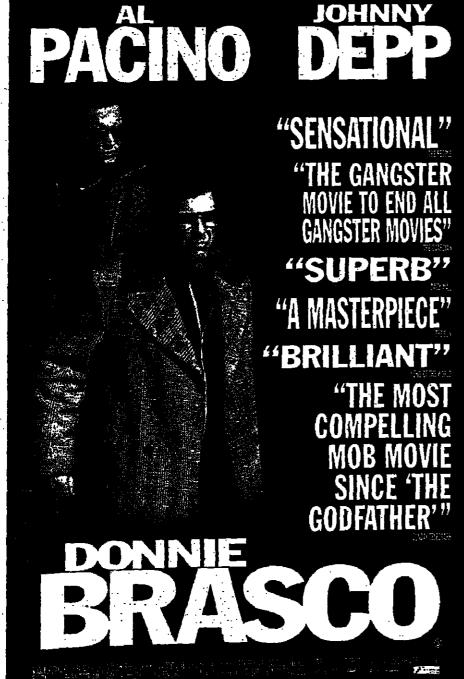
struggle against Hitler:
It will stand in the grounds
of the Imperial War Museum. A design competition has
been opened in Russia and
some of the entries were on display yesterday.

the Society for Co-operation in Russian and Soviet Studies after the VE-Day commemoration two years ago. General Vadislav Pronin, representing the Russian military, said: "We continue to be grateful to our allies for the moral and material support they gave as."



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NOW SHOWING AT CINEMAS NATIONWIDE

Immigrants can be starved out, Le Pen tells French voters

JEAN-MARIE LE PEN. leader of the extreme-right National Front, pushed his race message to the forefront of the French parliamentary elections yesterday by comparing immigrants to a flock of ravenous birds who could be starved out rather than sent

v fett.

"When you have a cherry tree, you will see swarms of starlings arrive just when the cherries are ripe ... they will not leave until all the cherries are gone." M Le Pen, who prides himself on his xenophobic rhetoric, said in a radio

We should stop giving foreigners what attracts them and explain that we do not have the means to support them or even to employ them. They will leave by themselves. It is not a question of sending them back, we will allow them

to leave," he said.

The National Front, campaigning on a "French First" platform, has traditionally argued that France's three milion immigrants from Third World countries should be repatriated if they try to re-main in France more than one

Partly contradicting his own suggestion that immigrants. deprived of support or work. would drift away of their own accord, M Le Pen said that funds to help immigrants to return home could be found by cutting off aid to foreign heads of state. Such money "usually ends up in Swiss bank accounts", he added.

The immigration issue has also been taken up by the mainstream parties in a contest that is growing closer by the day, according to opinion

Responding to an article published yesterday by Lionel Jospin, the Socialist leader. Alain Juppe, the Gaullist Prime Minister, demanded to know how "a massive resumotion of clandestine immigration" could be avoided if the. Left fulfilled its election promise to scrap the present strin-

gent immigration laws. The latest opinion poll by the Ipsos institute, published by the magazine Le Point yes-



Le Pen: said foreigners would choose to leave

terday, suggests that the left-wing opposition is now closer than ever to bringing off a surprise victory in the tworound election on May 25 and

The survey predicted that the ruling centre-right coali-tion would see its huge representation cut, having just 290 seats in the 577-seat National Assembly, thus giving the present Government only one more MP than would be necessary for a majority.

No opinion poll has yet **Europe Day** celebrated in France

Paris: The Eiffel Tower and Paris buses were decked out with goldstarred European flags yesterday as France celebrated Europe Day with a fervour which organisers insisted was unrelated to the parliamentary election cam-

paign. More than 3,000 events were being planned across France, half of them sponsored by the pro-federalist European Movement, to mark the anniversary of Robert Schumann's 1950 founding call for the creation of a Europe community Other Entonean cou tries also staged special celebrations to mark the

event. (Reuter)

Yeltsin invokes patriotic spirit of veterans

FROM RICHARD BEESTON IN MOSCOW

predicted an outright majority for the Left and, in a small TO THE rousing strains of a military band and the thun-dering march of thousands of boost to government hopes, splits have begun to appear in goose-stepping soldiers. Russia's elite yesterday turned out the left-wing alliance of Com-munists and Socialists. The Communist Party accused M Jospin yesterday of trying to mark the nation's victory over Hitler, and also to ponder its military decline.
On the first hot day of the to impose "hegemony" on the Left and the party's news-paper. L'Humanué, declined

to publish in full the Socialist

eader's open letter to voters.

European economic and mon-

etary union, with the Commu-

nists vehemently opposed to a

single currency and the Social-

ists still broadly supportive of

the project, although with

Robert Hue, the Communist

leader, has implied that he

may make a referendum on

the single currency a pre-

condition for supporting any

future Socialist government.

prompting M Juppé to ask

how M Jospin would "escape

Eurosceptic Communist min-

isters were appointed to a

is also bitterly opposed to a single currency (an instru-

Pen's words), may play a

wide support for the far-right

party remains stable at about

15 per cent, but it appears to be

growing in areas of high

unemployment and immigra-

tion, particularly around its

standing in these elections in

order to "save himself" for the

thing the National Front

supremo is saving himself

Critics respond that the only

presidential contest in 2002.

southern strongholds.

the Socialists.

The National Front, which

Socialist-led Cabinet.

crisis for Europe" if

The main source of friction on the Left is over the future of

year, President Yeltsin, flanked by the country's armed forces chiefs, stood to attention at the Lenin Mauso-leum in Red Square and called on his countrymen to take inspiration from the example set by the veterans of the Second World War.

"A Victory Day military parade on Red Square is a symbol of Russian soldiers' loyalty to the tradition of the Great Patriotic War heroes." he said, speaking in his capacity as commander-in-chief of the armed forces. "It is the sacred duty of the Russian Army to preserve and augment these traditions."

In Russia — which lost 27 million people during the conflict - VE-Day is still regarded by many as the country's most important national holiday, when lost family members are remembered ment of servitude" in M Le and the survivors of some of the most bloody battles in critical "spoiling" role in the forthcoming elections. Nationhistory are honoured. Certainly yesterday elderly men and women, some weighed down hy the rows of campaign medals pinned to their chests, relived their exploits and brushed away tears for those who did not return from

The Front is likely to win only a couple, if any, seats in spirit has all but evaporated parliament, but if, as predictin today's Russia. Although ed, far-right candidates get the soldiers on parade were through to the second round of well drilled and smartly turned out, the display paled voting in up to 150 constituencies, they may well bleed votes by comparison with previous anniversaries, when the city from the right-wing and centre parties to the benefit of streets shook with the rumble of tanks and the air vibrated M Le Pen, 68, has anwith the roar of jets. nounced that he will not be

the front.

Yesterday, for the first time, no naval personnel took part in the parade, and the gaps in the ceremony had to be filled with incongruous ballroom dancers and folk-sit pranced uneasily between the from is a humiliating electoral serried ranks of troops. In an annual message to the esti-

mated 1.5 million men and women in uniform. President Yeltsin this week bemoaned the state of the military and vowed to press ahead with his plans to reform the once mighty Soviet army into a modern professional force. In spite of his pledge, however, experts remain doubtful that

will improve soon. "In Russia today there is no reform to speak of in the armed forces," said a Western military source, well acquainted with the Russian Army. "Officers go for months without pay. Draft dodging is widespread. Theft of military property, including weapons, is rampant. Discipline has collapsed and officers frequently ignore orders from their superiors."

the situation in the military

His grim assessment was backed up by a recent incident near Moscow when some of the country's top fighter pilots refused to take part in a Russia has no future."

visiting Chinese president unless they were paid. Their stoppage, one of a number of cases of insurbordination, ended when their back-pay

quickly appeared.

Mr Yeltsin may not be able to allow the situation to drift much longer without running the risk of a backlash that could benefit his nationalist and Communist opponents, who staged a rival parade yesterday through Moscow.

General Aleksandr Lebed, a former paratrooper with presidential ambitions, has frequently given warnings about the possibility of a mutiny, and yesterday he mocked the Kremlin's attempts at reform.
"The minister of defence changed his uniform for a civilian suit, army generals changed one big star for four small ones, and that is all that has been reformed." General Leben said. "With such



Two former Soviet Second World War veterans embrace yesterday at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier in Moscow, where President Yeltsin addressed the thousands who gathered for the 52nd Victory Day parade

Second World War veterans which was attended by about 20,000 people. He used the occasion to hit back at critics of who complain about his authoritarian policies.

"Belarus does not need anyone's assessments, edifications or instructions," Mr an incredible price in the last war," he said, adding: "Lives of millions of our citizens were brought to the altar of victory for our freedom, for our right to determine our

own destiny."

At a separate ceremony about 2,000 people gathered

Belarus Victory Day march of 100,000 Jews who died during the Nazi occupation of the Minsk ghetto.

London: Britain and Russia yesterday launched a planto build a memorial to the 27 million people from the former Soviet Union who were killed during the Second World War. The joint project envisages the unveiling of a monument in the grounds of the Imperial War Museum in London in 1998, according to a spokesiman at the Russian Embassy. The interpretent will be made by 2 Russian sculp-tor and paid for by public subscription in Russia and other countries, (Reuter)

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Macau police on alert after casino Triad murders

FROM CATHERINE FIELD IN MACAU THEY used to call it sleepy

Macau, an enclave that was good for a relaxing weekend. Portuguese food and vinho verde. Now it has become the crime capital of the South China coast, a place haunted by a nightmarish gangland war that has claimed dozens of lives, left scores injured and is scaring off foreign investors.

The Macau Government is-

sued an appeal for calm and placed its police on a war footing to prepare for the weekend influx of gamblers from nearby Hong Kong after three people were murdered in front of the territory's biggest casino last Sunday. A gunman, riding pillion on a motorcycle, drew alongside a car in front of the Lisboa Casino in the heart of Macau and sprayed its interior with bullets, killing its three.

occupants. The victims were all key members of the I4K, one of the biggest Triads operating in the Pearl River delta and part of an organised crime network whose tentacles reach into Hong Kong and across the border into mainland China. The police said the trio were associates of the Triad's local "dragonhead", or leader, nicknamed Broken Teeth Koi.

Five days earlier, a 23-yearold Macau-born Eurasian was stabbed to death near the casino after a car chase across the peninsula. A week before, a young nurse was murdered. The deaths brought the

gang-linked murder toll so far this year to 14; last year it was a total of 21. Scores of people have also been injured in stabbing incidents and shops have been damaged bombs.

The gang warfare between the 14K and its rival, the Wo On Lok, is aimed at winning no loan-sharking, smuggling, prostitution and drug-trafficking. But what is giving the authorities sleepless nights is that the Triads have also taken on the Government, Last November they attempted to assassinate Lieutenant-Colonel Manuel Antonio Apolinario, then Deputy Director of Macau's Gambling Inspectorate, in an almost identical drive-by shooting. Colonel Apolinario was shot twice, in the face and neck. Bullets found at the scene were of 7.62mm calibre. the standard issue for Chinese

army handguns.
Albano Cabral, the Judiciary Police Deputy Director, has reassured the public and tourists that they are not in the firing line. The recent murders, he said, were the work of "professional killers who don't

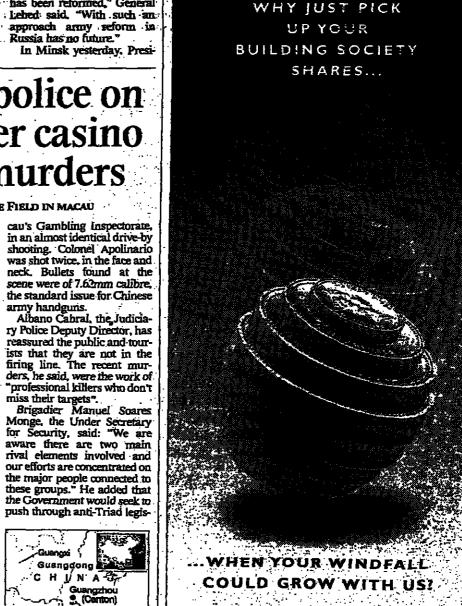
miss their targets". Brigadier Manuel Soares Monge, the Under Secretary for Security, said: "We are aware there are two main rival elements involved and our efforts are concentrated on the major people connected to these groups." He added that the Government would seek to push through anti-Triad legis-



lation to allow police to bug telephones and use high-tech

China, which will regain sovereignty over the enclave from Portugal in December 1999, has now entered the fray. Officials in the neighbouring Chinese city of Zhuhai are preparing to give Macau police a list of Triads with known links to gangs operat-ing in the enclave. Zhuhai authorities are alarmed by what is going on and taking steps to prevent crime spilling over from Macau. Zhuhai, a special economic zone, is a boom area notorious for pros-

titution and racketeering. Public anxiety about the violence has sparked demand for personal protection in Macau: one shop, the Long Van Trading Company, said it had run out of bullet-proof vests.



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Commandos end Venice tower siege by separatists

ITALIAN police yesterday said they had taken seriously an attempt by armed separat-ists to occupy the historic Campande (bell tower) in Venice, even though the attack ended like a comic-opera farce styled Commandes of St. Mark and capture of their home-made armoured car.

The surprise attack in the middle of the night was timed to coincide with preparations for the 200th armiversary of the fall of the "Most Serene Republic" of Venice to Napoleon in 1797. The group issued a demand for the restoration of a Venetian state for the anniversary on Monday.

The attack came after a series of pirate broadcasts by Venetian separatists who have broken into television news broadcasts in northern Italy over the past three months to demand independence.

The last such illegal broadcast was on Thursday evening, when television viewers in Venice heard a voice demanding independence for La. Serenissima. Umberto Bossi. the leader of the separatist Northern League, said the Venetiari militants were "nothing to do with" his party. He described the occupation of the Campanile as "crazy stuff". He said it was a provocation, and hinted that it had been organised by the Interior Ministry in Rome to discredit the separatist cause.

Signor Bossi's party has its roots in northern dissatisfaction with high taxes and the central Government in Rome. In Venice last September, he declared an independent republic called



A republican protester surrenders to armed guards who raided the bell tower to end the siege

weak points and that there are

people ready to exploit them."

. The drama began shortly after midnight on Thursday

when the separatists, some

dressed in camouflage uni-

forms and some in jeans and

sweaters, hijacked a ferry

making its last run down the

Grand Canal to St Mark's

Square from the Tronchetto.

an artificial island used as a

The militants had what

vehicle with one

appeared to be a Heath Robin-

son-type home-made arm-

cannon, and also comman-

deered a white camper van.

On reaching the square, they

drove the armoured car to the

base of the 322ft Campanile.

one of Europe's most famous

landmarks, built in the 9th

century, reconstructed in the

14th century and rebuilt again

Several of the suspects were

seen being taken out of police

headquarters in handcuffs.

When asked why he had

acted, one cried: For St Mark

after it collapsed in 1902.

car park

seen as symbolic. Massimo Cacciari, the leftwing Mayor of the northeastern city, indirectly blamed the Northern League for the incident. "it is obvious that in a climate in which one talks of secession, of Padania, of new

states, that these things can

happen," he said. Il Gazzettino, the Venice aper, said in a special edition that the Northern League, which last year won 10 per cent of the vote in national elections by playing on northern italian resentment of rule from Rome, had suffered a series of defeats in recent local

elections. The more an extreme cause loses ground, the more militant some of its followers become," the paper said, pointing out that an independence march by the League last September had fallen flat. This may smack of comic opera but those who wish democracy ill do not always have a sense of humour," the paper said. This latest action is a sign that the

head of the Carabinieri paramilitary police in Venice, said the authorities' main concern had been that the separatists might blow up the bell tower. Police said two of the separatists remained in the armoured car and six entered the bell tower, hanging the flag of the defunct Venetian republic, depicting a golden lion of St Mark, from the top. Signor Cacciari tried to talk the occupiers down, arguing that they had "achieved" their object by drawing publicity.

The city's chief prosecutor, Mario Daniele, dismissed the occupation as a purely demonstrative action carried out by "crazies". But "even crazies must be taken seriously until you are sure it's a bluff", he

By 8.15am, 24 special troops flown in from Pisa stormed the Campanile dressed in black and wearing masks. The commando unit of the Carabinieri flown in from their base in Livorno, on the west coast. entered the tower from three

One group of commandos came through the tower's entrance and another through a window ten yards up. Others climbed up scaffolding erected outside for a restoration project to reach the bell platform near the top of the tower. The operation lasted only eight minutes.

Colonel Borghini said the eight separatists gave up without a fight, and no shots had been fired. The special forces found a machinegun inside the bell tower, but said the separatists had not used it.

Police were unable to confirm reports that the militants, aged between 20 and 50 and mostly from the Verona area, included one woman. Police



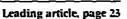
on the bell tower in St Mark's Square yesterday in a protest against central rule from Rome

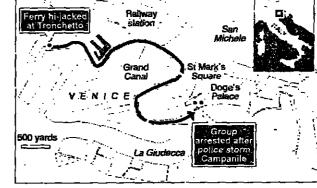
said it appeared the tower had been prepared for a long siege and had been stocked up with food, wine, water, sleeping bags and separatist propaganda.

Tourists in St Mark's Square appeared unconcerned by the separatist action. Winifred Leech, 73, from Hollandon-Sea, near Clacton, Essex, who had been visiting her cousin in Milan, said she had considered diverting to Verona when she heard the news

vesterday, "But I only had one day in Venice, and I was not going to be put off by something like this," she said. "I was more worried about this week's report of flooding in

Police said the arrested separatists would be charged with kidnapping the ferry captain, disturbance of public order, and illegal possession of weapons, membership of an armed band and subversion.





Aristocrats' excesses vanquished the republican dream

By RICHARD OWEN

THE militant action by Venetian separatist "commandos" was intended by its organisers to inspire Venetian pride in a long and independent-minded history 200 years after the fall of the Venetian But the 1,000 year Republic in

claimed to be acting was a shadow of its former self by the time it collapsed on May 12, 1797. In its arts flourished in Venice during reduced to a few mainland towns, to Napoleon in 1797. Venice was until the unification of Italy in 1860 and rising water levels.

heyday, the Venetian Republic held sway over an empire stretching throughout the Mediterranean, including Cyprus, Corfu, Crete and the Dalmatian Coast.

Crusaders from Venice played a key role in the Crusades in the Holy Land, and led the sack of Constantinople. The Republic outdid its arch-rival Genoa to become. ose name the extremists a rich and dominant European power governed by the Doge (or ... digm of degradation" in the words Dukel and the Grand Council. The of Jan Morris. Its possessions were

the Renaissance period, when the city produced some of Italy's

The rot set in in the loth-century after the Battle of Lepanto, when the Verietians won a famous victory over the Turks in 1571. Ironically, the battle marked the

high point of Venetian power and, by the 18th century. Venice was an effete and decadent state, a "parasuch as Verona and Bergamo. The population of Venice declined - as it has continued to do in the 20th century - and its aristocratic rulers lost interest in politics, amusing themselves instead with

carnivals and masked balls. One 18th-century writer records that there were 852 hairdressers to cater to a pampered population of 96,000,

By the time that the last Doge.

Ludovico Manin, handed control

bronze horses of St Mark's Cathedrai.

Napoleon promptly handed Venice to the Austrians, who 'St Mark's Square said. "We are controlled the city on the lagoon

ripe for foreign takeover - "unfit

for liberty", in Napoleon's con-

Napoleon had repeatedly of-

fered an "alliance" with Venice but

in the end lost patience and simply

walked in, looting most of Venice's treasures, including the celebrated

temptuous phase.

- except for a delusory period of independence in 1848, when Daniele Manin (no relation to the last Doge) led a short-lived upris-ing against the "foreign usurpers". In the even briefer revolt staged yesterday, no Venetians joined in. lays the latest

with either hi

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illuminate

and most of them dismissed the affair with a sad shrug. "Our problems will not be solved by this kind of behaviour." one waiter on more worried about subsidence

German rightwingers go on rampage

FROM REUTER IN BERLIN

GERMAN police said yester-day they had detained 2l people after right-wing extremists went on the rampage across eastern Germany the

Fourteen people were injured as violence broke out in lowns across the former East Germany on Thursday's Ascension Day public holiday. police said. One person was hurr when around 20 drunken people chanted Nazi slogans

and threw stones and fenceposts at a refugee home in the small town of Gnaschwitz in Saxony. Police detained eight suspected

attackers there. Extremists hurled a firebomb at another refugee home in the Saxon town of Groditz and threatened residents. Eight people were injured in . Magdeburg when crowds armed with chains stormed a meeting of amateur radio

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yesterday. Eight people were detained.

In Gera. south of Leipzig, police detained 13 people and said that two leftwingers and three police officers were injured after a fight broke out between right-wing extremists and leftwingers.

Police in the western town of Kaiserslautern said that unknown assailants had desecrated a Jewish cemetery by

operators in the early hours overturning 25 gravestones and defacing a further of with swastikas and anti-Semitic

> abuse in red paint. There was an increase in right-wing violence in Germany after unification in 1990, particularly in the former Communist east. Some observers fear that record postwar unemployment, which reached 4,35 million last month, is sparking a new

Vera strikes a blow for freedom to farm

FROM RICHARD BEESTON IN SELIVANIKHA

WITH all the determination of a buyer at a Sotheby's sale of Impressionist masterpieces, Vera Taskinina held up her bidding card and fixed her eyes firmly on the auctioneer as she fought off rival bids for the ownership of a barn.

As the gavel came crashing down to seal the purchase, her middle-aged farmer's face broke into a smile of gold teeth and the auditorium erupted into spontaneous applause, in recognition of a small but poignant victory of the individual over the State.

in a hall where the members of the Klemyonovskoe state farm used to hear lectures extolling the virtues of communism, the benefits of collective farming and the need to fulfil quotas, the talk this week was of property rights, supply and demand and the profitability of various

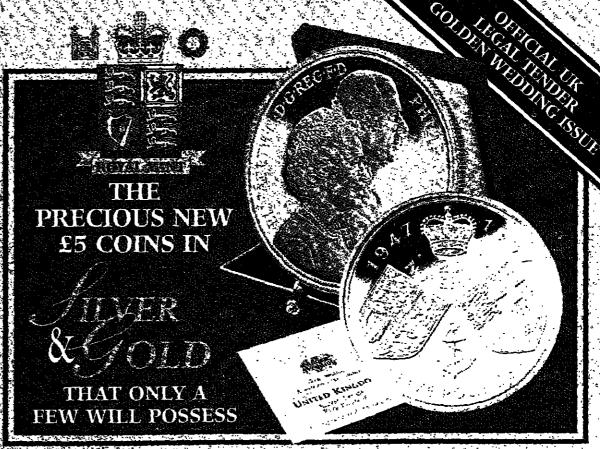
Seventy years after Stalin's brutal programme of collectivisation wiped out Russia's class of peasant landowners, the kulaks, and left millions dead, a small and bloodless counter-revolution is taking place across the country's conservative rural heartland. "My family and I decided that it was time to try to make a go of it by ourselves," said Mrs Taskinina, 50, who represents

a new breed of kulak. Her land holding may add up to only some livestock and a modest 21 acres, but with the nine members of her family she hopes that they can run a small and profitable operation, selling produce at the local market.

The trend is catching on. The auction at Selivanikha, 80 miles southeast of Moscow. was the 300th organised by the British Know How Fund, which over the past four years has helped to privatise about 2.5 million acres in 11 regions. creating more than 1.000 new

farms. Michael McCulloch, the director of the Know How Fund in the former Soviet Union. said that inquiries were coming in from across Russia from farms eager to follow suit. "These auctions are entirely voluntary and we are careful to explain that this is not some magic key to agricultural recovery," he said. "What it does do, though, is allow individuals to exercise their right of ownership and offer them choices they did not have before."

Stalin: millions died in



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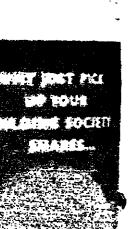
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Israel and Jordan in secret attempt to end water crisis

FROM CHRISTOPHER WALKER IN JERUSALEM

ing took another dramatic Israeli and Jordanian leaders darkness at the Jordanian Red Sea resort of Aqaba in an attempt to patch up a water dispute that had thrown their relations into crisis.

Details of the meeting were confirmed yesterday after the story found its way to Israel's biggest-selling paper. Yediot Aharonot. Binyamin Netan-yahu, the Prime Minister, who flew to the meeting in a military helicopter, told his Cabinet that progress had been made on the water issue.

However, he told ministers made in the latest mission by Dennis Ross, the United States special envoy, to rescue the Israeli-Palestinian peace process. To underline the point, rioting erupted again yesterday in the West Bank city of Hebron, leaving four Palestinians and an Israeli

soldier injured. The Aqaba meeting was agreed hastily after Crown Prince Hassan of Jordan snubbed Mr Netanyahu on Tuesday by refusing to attend a ceremony to unveil a memorial to seven Israeli schoolgirls massacred by a Jordanian soldier. Officials accused Israel of backing out at the last minute from its 1994 accord to help

Jordan to find an extra 50 million cubic metres of water a

atmosphere at the talks was very positive. Earlier in the

Jordanian Foreign Minister.

whole peace process and accused Israel of breaching

the peace accord by failing to

follow up its committment to

help in finding water for the

parched kingdom. An Israeli Cabinet state-

ment issued yesterday said

that after the Aqaba talks,

which lasted for several hours.

professionals on both sides would continue working on a solution to the dispute.

At the time that the original

deal was signed by the late

Yitzhak Rabin, many Israelis,

including his Labour succes-

sor as Prime Minister,

Shimon Peres, argued that he

had given too much away to

Jordan on the water clauses.

This week's dispute has high-

lighted repeated warnings that, by the next century, water rather than oil may

emerge as the main cause of

The continuing deep dis-

trust between the two sides is

made clear by the lack of

mission, which once again

became bogged down in the

vexed issue of Jewish settle-

ments. Far from agreeing to a

freeze, the Israeli Cabinet is-

sued a statement yesterday which said that "the Govern-

ment is acting to strengthen

Saeb Erekat, a senior Palestinian negotiator, told Israel radio that the US envoy had brought no new ideas. With

the prospect of more street violence, Israel's southern

army commander told Yediot

that if the Palestinian police

again opened fire on Israeli

troops, the Israelis would

show much less restraint than

they did last September. Then

15 Israelis and 65 Palestinians

were killed and 1,500 people

☐ Geneva: The United Na-

tions Committee Against Tor-

ture yesterday rejected denials

hy the Israeli security authori

ties and called on them imm-

ediately to stop using torture

in the interrogation of some

terrorist suspects.

conflict in the Middle East.

spoke of a "frustration in the

week, Fayez al-Tarawneh, the

The peace treaty ending a 46-year state of war specified that by November 1995 the two sides would develop a plan to supply Jordan with the water. ideas included desalination plants, dam building and steps to ease pollution of river water. But no such plan has yet been implemented.

No official reason for the cloak-and-dagger nature of the meeting was given. But diplomatic sources said that the Jordanian public is becoming increasingly disillusioned with the peace process: no mention of the meeting was made in yesterday's Jordanian press. King Hussein was also reluctant to be seen as upstaging the crisis talks involving the United States, Israel and

Among the Israeli team who flew to Aqaba was Ariel Sharon, the hardline former war hero and Defence Minister, who now is in charge of water resources as part of his National Infrastructure portfolio. It was the first time that the King had met Mr Sharon, a former general, who told Israel radio: "To my regret, my meetings in the past with the Kingdom of Jordan were in

Ex-warlord jailed on eve of visit by Pope

FROM AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE IN BEIRUT

Christian warlord, was given the death penalty yesterday for an attempt to assassinate a Lebanese government minister in 1991, but the sentence was commuted to life in jail. The verdict came on the eve of

the Pope's visit to Lebanon. Geagea, already serving two life sentences for murder. attempt against Michel Murr, then the Defence Minister and now the Deputy Prime Minis-

SAMIR GEAGEA, the former Judicial Council, Lebanon's highest court for state security crimes and whose verdicts cannot be appealed against, ruled after a six-month trial.

It said the sentence was commuted because the bomb attack on Mr Murr occurred before the amnesty law for crimes committed during the 1975-90 civil war. Geagea, 45, commander of the disbanded Christian Lebanese Forces, is the only militia leader from the war to have been put on

Envoy arrives in personal and diplomatic breakthrough



Douglas "Pete" Peterson, America's Ambassador to Vietnam, is greeted in Hanoi yesterday by Mai Van On who helped a stricken US Air Force pilot during the war

Washington's man in Hanoi on mission to heal the past

By James Pringle

A FORMER prisoner of war, Douglas "Pete" Peterson, the first United States Ambassador to arrive in Hanoi since the end of the Vietnam war. pledged yesterday to put the past behind the two countries. but said that the search for America's missing servicemen topped the list of his

Vietnam. Mr Peterson's arrival yesterday, establishing full diplomatic relations between the

country':

former adversaries, came more than 22 years after the end of the conflict that left three million Vietnamese and 58,000 Americans

"I am confident that we will not think of ourselves as former adversaries, but as good friends," Mr Peterson airport as he arrived to appar-

stressed that accounting for the 1,589 Americans still listed as missing in action would top his agenda. "America and Vietnam have put the conflict behind them, but finding out what happened to the missing

is an urgent task," he said. At the airport Mr Peterson cued John McCain, now a US Senator, from a lake after

Ex-PoW returns platas to Vietno to Vietnam as US Ambassador PROM TOM Present

in Vietnam, Douglas "Pete" Peterson made a vow never to return to the country of his.

captivity. His arrival yesterday as the United States's first Ambassador to Vietnam since the war ended in 1975, and the first ever to take office in Hanoi, symbolic sign of reconciliation for both countries but also a personal catharsis.

I had enough hate in my life for those years I sat in a cell, "Mr Peterson said recently. "Had it continued, I would not have been able to function. I essentially put it behind me the day I walked out of that

Mr Peterson's evolution from tortured prisoner to emissary marks both an extractdinary thawing of diplomatic relations and a shrewd choice by President Clinton, whose dodging of the Vietnam draft has constantly undermined

prochement with Habot. But in Mr Peterson, 67, a former United States Air Force fighter pilot who en-dured the worst excesses of the infamous "Harioi Hillion", the war camp, Mr Chinton has found an ambassador widely praised by all sides: a potent symbol of how America can come to terms with the Vietnam experience.

He flew 66 missions over down near Hanoi. Mr Peterson broke his arm, shoulder, and leg in the fall and, as was fused to set any of the bones.

The prison existence consist-

ed mainly of a shared and fetid cell, constant beatings and bug-ridden food. "You confront the reality that human beings are rational only by virtue of a thin veneer," he said, "Beneath the veneer is a savage who will do whatever

he had to do to survive.

His wife, Carnota, died of

AFTER more than six and a dies. It is probably this instinct half years as a prisoner of war for survival which finally resulted in his appointment yesterday. Mr Peterson's nomination had been delayed for almost a year by opponents who saw a new diplomaticmission as no help to the the fate of more than 2000 American PoWs and those missing in action whose fate

Vietnam's Communist leaders have praised Mr Petereven veterans groups opposed to any normalisation of rela-tions have admitted that he is a sound choice.

Raised in what he has sons in Omaha, Mr Peterson is the minth of ten children parts of the Midwest while he was a teenager before he finally left lowa Wesleyan offege to join the Air Force.

Mr. Peterson took classes for a degree which he finally gained *from Tampa University in 1976 at the age of 41. After setting from the Air Force as a colonel in 1980, he settled in Florida and, a decade later, was recruited by the Democrass to run for Congress. He retired from the House of Representatives at the begin-



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Spanish vultures get a taste for live farm animals

VULTURES in northern Spain have made a Darwinian leap in behaviour by shunning their traditional fare of carrion and evolving into vicious pack hunters of live animals

The sudden change in be-haviour of a group of Griffon vultures, Gyps fulvus, in the hill country of Navarre has caught scientists and local farmers by surprise.

Vultures are meant to be exclusively interested in dead and decaying meat. They are also famous cowards.

I have never seen anything like it." Pedro Cañamares, a shepherd, told La Vanguardia.

"We always thought of the vultures as our friends, and I don't understand what is happening to these ones."

Government officials at first refused to believe farmers who complained that the birds had tired of picking clean the rotting carcasses of dead ani-



mals and had started hunting down sheep, calves and foals. A vulture's sluggishness on the ground and its usually timid personality mean it is poorly adapted for hunting for

However, a series of pictures captured by a freelance photographer finally proved that a group of young Griffon vultures had developed a method of surrounding sheep and using their sharp beaks and powerful neck muscles to

The regional government in Navarre yesterday agreed to pay compensation to farmers whose animals were killed by vultures.

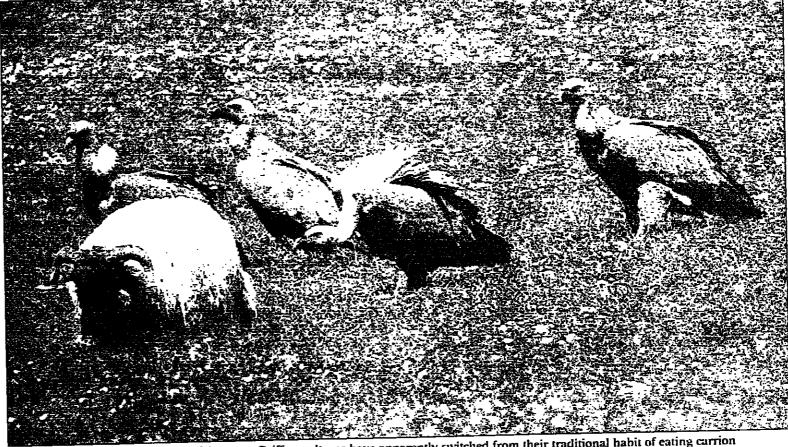
Yolanda Barcina Angulo who is Navarre's regional Environment Minister, said that there had been more than 30 recorded cases of vultures killing livestock over the past

"It seems that the attacks are being carried out by young birds," she said. There is no evidence that

this is due to lack of carrion in Señora Barcina also announced that a team of scientists had been asked to

research and explain the phe-

nomenon. The investigators will try to determine whether the attacks really mark a change in behaviour in the species, or whether they are the work of a rogue gang of adolescent vultures who have developed a



Where sheep may not safely graze: Griffon vultures have apparently switched from their traditional habit of eating currion

bizarre taste for killing. The attacks, however, present a problem for the regional gov-

The Griffon vulture, one of just four species left that

be captured and kept at a wildfife centre "for study". survive in Europe, is a protected animal in the country. A Omothologists have given a cull of the offending individwarning that farmers might uals would be against the law. begin to take their own re-Instead the authorities have venge on the vultures by ordered that some of the birds

poisoning carcasses, a technique that has driven the hirds from much of the rest of

"Spain is the one big success story for vultures." David

Houston, of Glasgow University, said.

In other parts of the Mediterranean the birds are being poisoned on a massive scale.

Mobutu waits for more Gabon talks

By Our Foreign Staff

PRESIDENT MOBUTU of Zaire was reported yesterday to have delayed his return home from Gabon, awaiting talks with Thabo Mbeki, the South African Vice-President. who said he had won promise from Laurent Kabila, the rebel leader, to give diplomacy a

Mr Mobutu delayed his return to Kinshasa for the talks with Mr Mbeki, which will lay the groundwork for another face-to-face meeting between the President and Mr Kabila on a South African

ship on Wednesday. "Mr Kabila says he is committed to the peaceful resolution of the Zaire conflict," Mr Mbeki said in Lubumbashi. Zaire's second city, after talks with the rebel leader. "He is willing to give diplomacy a chance and our understanding is that he will not proceed with the military campaign until after next week's meeting." he added.

Earlier, as two more international airlines cancelled flights to Kinshasa, the rebels restated their demand that Mr Mobutu stand down and hand nower to Mr Kabila. We nsist, as we have always nsisted, that Mr Mobutu must resign and hand over power directly to 'President' abila." Bizima Karaha, the Foreign Minister" of the Alliance of Democratic Forces for Tenke. (AP)

the Liberation of Congo-Zaire, said in Lubumbashi.

The CNN television network reported from Kinshasa that Mr Mbeki was carrying a new peace plan that envisaged parliament electing a Speaker to whom Mr Mobutu could hand power and who in return could hand over to another leader. Officials in Kinshasa had said that Mr Mobutu would return yesterday, but he is now expected today. His spokesman in Gabon said that the talks with Mr Mbeki would probably last around

40 minutes ☐ Lubumbashi: Zaire's rebels will receive a \$50 million (£31 million) down-payment from the Tenke Mining Corporation on a contract to exploit what could be the world's largest copper and cobalt deposits, a company official said

It would be the largest single cash injection the rebels are believed to have received since they began their drive to oust Mr Mobutu last September. Officials of Tenke, which is based in Vancouver, British Columbia, approved the transfer after rebels signed a \$250 million contract on May 2. The company had drawn up Mobutu's Government, but it had not been completed, said Ted Webb, the president of



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March 31, the group had 112 to 31, the group had 112 to 72p to 75p.

Republicans seek federal trials for teenage crime

FROM TOM RHODES IN WASHINGTON

REPUBLICANS sought to seize the initiative over juvenile crime in America yesterday, overwhelmingly endorsing a crime Bill that would allow offenders as young as 13 to be tried in federal courts.

The legislation, easily approved by the House of Representatives but still requiring the stamp of the Senate, would also offer block grants total-ling \$1.5 billion (£925 million) to states that modify their laws along federal lines.

Few young offenders are tried in federal courts, however, so the vote to toughen federal penalties for violent crimes such as murder, rape and armed robbery is largely symbolic.

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But if Congress can persuade the states to follow suit. the effects could be important. It would all but abolish the special treatment traditionally granted young people accused of serious crimes and could bring about the most sweeping changes in the juvenile criminal system in decades.

Not only does the Juvenile Crime Control Bill require minors who commit violent acts to be tried as adults, but also demands in some cases that, once convicted, they should share jails with older felons. President Clinton, touring Latin America, denounced the Bill for its failure to balance tough enforcement with prevention and intervention. Unlike his Youth Violence Act, the President said,

the Republican legislation did nothing to combat gang vio-lence or to bar the sale of guns to 18-year-olds with juvenile criminal records. Democrats portrayed the opposition Bill as a volte-face in which the Republicans con-tradicted their deeply held philosophy of returning power to the states. But the stringent

measures of the proposed law,

286 to 132, clearly resonated

among more conservative Democrats, 77 of whom supported the opposition agenda. Although statistics show that nationally crime rates are dipping, including figures for uvenile offences, a fifth of violent crime in America is

committed by people under 18. George Gekas, a Republican congressman for Pennsylvania, said: Americans are shocked by the brutality and viciousness of crimes that are being committed by 13, 14 and 15-year-olds. And they are equally shocked when they see a system that treats these

juveniles as something less than the predators they seem

show that only 200 defendants aged 18 or younger were tried on federal charges in 1994, but about 12,300 young people a year are prosecuted as adults in state courts. That figure would soar if the Bill were to become law

States hoping to qualify for the block grant, designed to enable the employment of more prosecutors, the build-ing of more jails and the creation of drug courts would have to meet four conditions. They would have to ensure that juveniles of 15 or older were tried as adults, that draconian penalties were imposed on repeat offenders, that a tracking system was established for minors and that parents would face court orders if guilty of improper

supervision of their children. Defendants as young as 14 would be tried as adults and the legislation would allow state attorneys-general to move the trial of a 13-year-old to an adult court. About two thirds of the states would be forced to toughen their juvenile laws to become eligible for



Pamela Anderson Lee giving evidence in a Los Angeles court in a case in which she is accused of backing out of a film, leaving the producers high and dry

Actress 'broke film contract' over sex scene on pool table

PAMELA ANDERSON LEE, the former doyenne of Baywatch lifeguards, is accused in a Los Angeles court of backing out of a film role because it involved simulated

Ms Anderson Lee, who was never shy of nudity as the most popular "playmate" in Playboy magazine's history, agrees that she objected to the sexual content of a script entitled Hella, She Lied. She being sued for \$5 million (£3 million) by producers who say she left them high and dry. The script, based on a nation having withdrawn in the past from a signed deal to make a Playboy video. The actress dismayed fans last December by announcing that last year's Baywatch sea

son had been her last. She planned to spend more time with her seven-month-old son. Brandon, and to "pursue other interests", she said. The news came a month after she sued for divorce from her husband, Tommy Lee, a rock drammer, only to be recon-Ms Anderson Lee said in 'ciled' with him ten days later, that Bin Laden had been evidence on Thursday. She The couple were married on a admitted under cross-exami- Mexican beach in 1995.

Taleban shelters Islamic 'terrorist'

FROM CHRISTOPHER THOMAS IN KANDAHAR

ONE of the world's most wanted terrorist suspects. Osama Bin Laden, has moved with his three wives to the southern Afghan city of Kan-dahar, headquarters of the Taleban Islamic militia

He is living near the derelict airport, hidden from view because, even for Taleban, which claims to have ended his terrorist activities, he is an embarrassment. America has called him "one of the most significant sponsors of Islamic extremist activities in the

world today".

He is wanted in Egypt for allegedly funding a plot to murder President Mubarak. and is a suspect in two bombings in Saudi Arabia last year in which 24 American soldiers died.

Born in Saudi Arabia, he was earlier living in the east-ern Afghan city of Jalalabad, where he arrived a year ago with 150 men. He organised training for Islamic terrorists mostly Sudanese and Saudis. in camps surrounding the city He was allowed to remain after Taleban captured Jalalabad from the former Government last year, and continued to maintain contacts with the outside world by personal satellite telephone.

He has private wealth of more than £100 million, inherited from his father's construction business, and may have given financial help to Taleban This would paradoxically put him on the same side as the Saudi Government, his nemesis and which he regards as corrupt.

Mullah Muhammad Hassan, 40, Governor of Kandahar Province and a senior Taleban leader — he may de facto be the second-in-charge - said Mr Bin Laden was shifted to Kandahar a month ago. He insisted that giving him protection did not violate international law because he

out of the country.
"He is a human being, and we have to rescue him. We also watched him closely in Jalalabad after we captured

would be killed if he were sent

the city. instructed by Taleban to stop all foreign activities.

Body part suspect released

Mons: The lone suspect in the hunt for a Belgian serial killer, who left the body parts of many as five women in 15 rubbish bags. was released yesterday. Body parts were found in locations with macabre names, such as Anxiety Lane and River Hate, but none was found since his arrest two weeks ago. (AP)

Crash toll up

Beijing: The death toll in China's first aviation disaster in three years, when a Boeing 737 slammed into the runway in the city of Shenzhen, rose to 35. (Reuter)

Children raped

Nevers. France: Jacky Kaisermetz, 58, a retired teacher, has admitted raping dozens of children over 30 years, police said. He was arrested after a victim left a message. (AFP)

On the fiddle

New York: A concert violinist who smuggled rare violins into America was fined and ordered to perform at naturalisation ceremonies welcoming new citizens to the country. (AP)

Lorry tragedy

Delhi: A larry carrying 90 guests to a wedding party fell into a gorge in northern India killing at least 71 people people, many of them children, and injuring eight others. (Reuter)

Wiesel 'no'

New York: Elie Wiesel, the Nobel Peace Prize winner, said that he had declined the post of international chairman of a Swiss bank-backed fund for Holocaust victims. (AFP)

Old flame

Ankara: A Turkish man, 85, has been charged with arson after setting fire to the home of his wife's 60, and lover were charged

Gingrich leads drug crusade



Gingrich: wants life in

iail for drug traffickers

By Tom Rhodes

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House Speaker, yesterday outlined a Republican blueprint for social reform, promising by 2001 to eradicate drug use. improve education and convince Americans their country

was founded on faith. In his first big policy speech of the current Congress. designed to bolster a previously precarious role as Speaker, Mr Gingrich said his team was ready for widespread change in American morality by the millennium.

Gingrich told members of the

NEWT GINGRICH, the National Religious Broadcasters. "It is vital that we reassert the centrality of faith in the definition of America."

His proposals, which aides said last night would dominate the Speaker's personal agenda in the coming years, include at their heart a plan to banish illegal drugs from

Mr Gingrich and Trent Lott, the Senate majority leader, have co-sponsored a Bill that would impose mandatory life sentences for first-time offenders caught trafficking quantities of drugs the reality of the Creator is an across the border. The death empty desert of despair," Mr sentence would apply for a second offence.

FROM GILES WHITTELL IN LOS ANGELES recent bestseller by the producer Lynda Obst, was offered to the Canadian actress but was eventually made as

sex on a pool table.

Miami Hustler, starring the swimsuit model Kathy Ireland. At issue is whether Ms Anderson Lee, 29, made a mere verbal agreement or signed a deal, on the strength of which the Private Movie Company claims it hired extras and security guards and agreed the details of her trailer "I did not unit out

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Mafia starts to feel the heat

says Leoluca Orlando, the PALERMO FILE popular and exuberant May-or of Palermo. The Mafin is anti-Sicilian. We are known by the face of our enemies. The matiosi hijacked Sicilian s — family honour, triendship - and made them

dn

sinister and criminal. But we have broken this mentality Palermo is owner had failed to pay protection money. Long-delayed road and railway projects remain unfinished and much of election in the autumn and his claim is eraggerated. Sieily is still a place where, as one 19th century traveller put it, the exaggerated. Sielly is still a place where, as one 19th-century traveller put it, "the grange and demon blosstims smell of

On the day that I met Signor Orlando at his elegant baroque residence, the Villa Niscemi, beneath Monte Pellegrino on the edge of Palermo, a nearby

Malia since the trauma of the murder in 1992 of Italy's much admired anti-Malia judges, Giovanni Falcone and Paolo

by RICHARD

OWEN

The Mayor, who is protected by 16 bodyguards, was elected in 1993 on a tide

Making scents of allure

aure-naired dark-eyed women; the lead-face cream, eye shadow and lipstick as ing film actress. Maria Grazia Cuci-do women in the north of Italy. Oddly, notia, star of It Postino and, according the same survey also showed that only to countless admiring Italian men, the 18 per cent of the women buy deodorant. Sophia Loren of our day, comes from compared with 40 per cent of northers. SICILY is famed for the beauty of its twice as much bubble bath, shower gel, Sophia Loren of our day, comes from compared with 40 per cent of northern Messina But a survey has disclosed that Italians, "Our women don't need it," one Sicilian female allure is not wholly. Palermo chemist said. "They smell sweet natural: Sicilian women, it seems, buy anyway."

under the Christian Democrats, but when they collapsed in a wave of corruption scandals, turned sharply to the Left, forming his own anti-Matia

The spot where Judge Falcome died on the road to Palermo airport is marked by flowers and a red-painted crash barrier. The Maña went too far," Signor Orlando says, "Once a few crazy heroes took on the Maña; now the silent majority has joined them."

Poverty-stricken Palermo seemed

wealthier than it was because the Mafia bought and sold all the villas and cars", he said. Now the dirty money has moved elsewhere. We are less rich, but more free."

Residents agree that the grip of the Mafia has loosened. There used to be a climate of fear," a law student said in a pizzeria in the restored harbour area, formerly a no-go area after dark. "He has given us pride and hope."

Signor Orlando, who is of aristocratic origin, is applieded not only for creating pedestrian zones and opening up civic buildings to the public but also for restoring his own family villa after living for 25 years in a small flat. "I thought the poor would be scandalised. Instead they



Leoluca Orlando, the Mayor of Palermo. He says: "We have broken the Mafia mentality. Palermo is becoming a normal city"

Japan junket for 400 is a trip too far

THE Teatro Massimo renovation is not the only building work in Sicily beset by

mysterious delays. The island is staging the World Student Games in July and the autonomous regional government in Palermo is counting on the event to bring the "capital of the Mediterranean" extra income and prestige. But because of a large hole in this year's regional budget. only plugged this month by an emergency loan from Credit Suisse, many of the planned stadiums and athletes' villages remain on the drawing board.

No less embarrassing is the sudden cancellation of a Sicilian government junket to Fukuoka in Japan, where the Games were last held. When it emerged that 400 people were going at public expense, including cooks, musicians. television stars and some local politicians' wives and girlfriends, the trip was abruptly called off and Luciano Ordile, the director of tourism for Sicily, was

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Unfortunately, several crates of archaeological treasures had already been shipped to Japan as part of an exhibition to promote the island's image. The Japanese are keeping them as surety until debts run up for the aborted junket have been paid.

Serb suspect defies war crimes court with death threats

12

1.81

Martic wanted by the international tribunal, yet remains at liberty

ORTHERN ROCK

MILAN MARTIC, the former Croatian Serb police officer who ordered missile attacks on Zagreb in 1995, has warned United Nations troops in former Yugoslavia that there will be "many deaths" if any attempt is made to arrest him.

Mr Martics liberty makes a mockery of the International Criminal Tribunal for the Former Yugsolavia in The hague and puts. its landmark ruling against a Bosnian Serb on Weinesday into

Behind the judges, politicians, diplomats, soldiers and police officers who prosecute the world's effort to bring peace and justice to former Yugoslavia lies the bald truth. One and a half years after the Dayton peace accords, nearly all those indicted in The Hague are

Like his more notorious colleagues, Radovan Karadzic and General Ratko Mladic, Mr Martic leads a curious shadow-life in Republika Srpska, taunting a incapable of moving against some lar agreement and other Euro-

FROM TOM WALKER IN BANJA LUKA

styled "President of the temporarily occupied Republic of Srpska Krajina", he lives in the middle of Banja Luka, Republika Srpska's

largest town.

His house is within walking distance of the UN's International Police Task Force building, the regional Office of the High Representative, Carl Bildt, and a plethora of other international agency offices. The base for 5,000 British Sfor (UN Stabilisation Force) troops is five miles down the road.

Mr Martic has a white BMW in

Helsinki: Finland is ready to make snace in its fails for convicted war criminals from the former Yugoslavia after Tarja Halonen, the Foreign Minister, signed an agreement with the United Nations war crimes tribunal in The Hague on Wednesday, the STT national news agency said. exceptionally high security would

of its most wanted men. The self- pean countries are expected to be needed. (Reuter)

The government may look set

say as much for interest rates.

his drive and a bizarre collection of about 20 "gardeners" in his small orchard, pretending to rake leaves and prune bushes.

Interior security staff conduct a painstaking search for hidden microphones and weapons before access to the hallowed third floor is granted; there sits Mr Martic, every inch the policeman-president with his clipped moustache and burgundy sports jacket. He fled to Banja Luka in August

1995 as the Croatian Army's Oper-ation Storm forced a pitiful mass

Finnish jails on standby

sign such accords soon, STT said. Finnish radio said Finland would be the first country where an agreement would take force. STT gooted a Foreign Ministry official as saying that the first war criminals could arrive late this year, but Finland does not intend to accept leading political war

exodus of Serbs, under heavy fire, from his doomed republic. But the citizens of Zagreb will long remember the two Orkan rocket attacks ordered by Mr Martic that preceded Storm. Seven people were killed and 40 injured: he is one of the most hated men in Croatia, and certainly among the top ten of those sought by The

Hague tribunal. I feel responsible in that I was the leader," Mr Martic said. "But I do not feel ethically guilty. The charges made against me are ridiculous. How can I sit on the bench for firing a few dozen rockets at military targets when [Croatian President] Tudjman ordered the bombing of Serb women and children as they fled for their lives?

In Sarajevo yesterday. Colum Murphy, the erudite and sincere spokesman for the High Representative, admitted outrage at Mr Martic's continued freedom. "It puts into question all other activiinternational community if they can't deal with abscesses like these," he said.

Tudiman 'plotted carve-up of Bosnia' FROM ASSOCIATED PRESS IN ZAGREB

the President of Croatia told United Nations war crimes investigators that the Zagreb Government played a far more direct role in the Bosnian war than leaders have previously acknowledged. Three newspapers con-

trolled by the Government yesterday condemned the testimony of Stjepan Mesic, who broke with President Tudiman in early 1994 over his policy on Bosnia and authoritarian rule. The publication of the testi-

mony comes just over a month before presidential elections tentatively scheduled for June 15. It could be intended to hurt the chances of Mr Mesic, who said he would be willing to challenge Mr Tudjman "if the opposition parties agree".

Mr Mesic gave confidential testimony to investigators in capacity as the last President of former Yugoslavia, which World War," Mr Mesic said.

A FORMER close associate of disintegrated in the war. He said yesterday that most of his conversation with investigators had centred on President Milosevic of Serbia, who instigated Serb rebellions in Croatia and Bosnia.

But the excerpts published in newspapers focused on testimony that revealed some of the long-rumoured details of the Government's involvement in the Bosnian war including Mr Tudjman's own

According to the transcript, Mr Mesic said that President Tudiman did not initially want to divide Bosnia. But Mr Tudjman "changed after Karadjordjevo", Mr Mesic said, referring to the widely reported meetings between Mr Tudjman and Mr Milosevic in 1991. "It is absurd. It is as if Hitler and The Hague late last year in his Churchill had met numerous times during the Second

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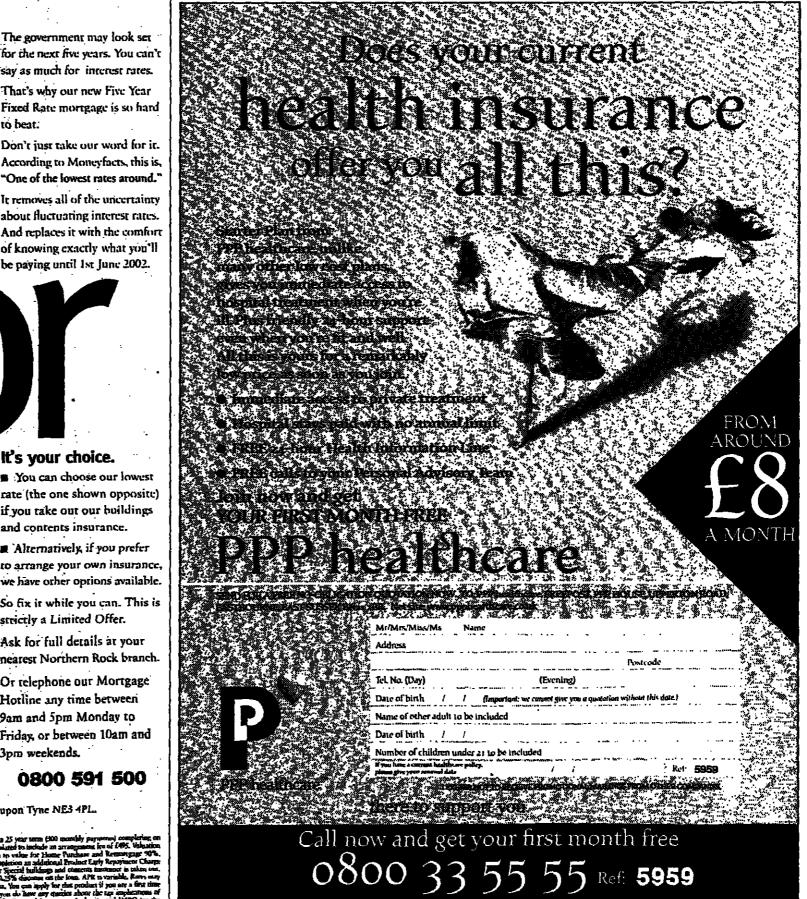
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■ DANCE 1

ANTONIO GADES, flamenco superstar.

does not perform these days, concentrating instead on directing his capacious

company. Not that you would notice his absence from the stage straight away: Manuel Heurtas has the broad shoulders

and long legs of the Gades silhouette and

has evidently been groomed as a younger

In Fuenteovejuna (at the Royal Concert Hall) he plays Frandoso Jose, who

courageously draws a knife on the

tyrannical Commander to save the hon-

our of Laurencia, his future bride (Elvira

Andres). Furious, the Commander ab-ducts the couple at their wedding and

rapes Laurencia, an outrage which incites

Fuenteovejuna's townspeople to kill their

oppressor. Fuenteovejuna is Gades's 1994

version of Lope de Vega's celebrated play of the same title. Located at the end of

15th-century Spain, it is a simple tale of public politics and private emotions

stirringly told. No wonder the Soviet

Russians also pounced on it as an apt

As in the Carmen which he brings to

THEATRES

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THEATRES

version of the master.

Blood, lust and flamenco: Antonio Gades and company serve up a heady brew in Glasgow



DANCE 2

The young turks of Nederlands Dans Theatre start their British tour with an action-filled evening in London

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■ WHAT'S ON From the evergreen rock 'n' roll of Aerosmith,

on display in

Manchester.



WHAT'S ON

.. to a London recital by Pavarotti: top events are listed today in The Directory

DANCE: Flamenco with side-dishes in a fiery Spanish melodrama; first-rate performances from a Dutch second string

A question of honour

Fuenteovejuna Glasgow

London's Peacock Theatre next week, Gades structures his piece tersely and straightforwardly so that Lope de Vega is not betrayed. The stark decor of stakes. chairs and wooden chests is all-purpose but evocative. The action advances by means of set-pieces of folk dance and song, drawing on the infinite variety of Spain's traditions and obviating the potential monotony of an exclusively flamenco menu.

The wedding celebration, for example, not only includes a flamenco bulerias. successive individuals performing their

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musical play by Moss Hart with lyfos
by Ira Gerstwin and music by Kurt
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COTTESLOE Torit, Man 7.00 KING LEAR William Stakespeare.

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solo turns, but a breakneck jota round the bride, the bouncing jack-knifing legs reminiscent of Celtic jigs. These items conjured up a wonderfully appropriate sense of life and community.

it was clever of Gades to transform the explanatory, solo form of flamenco song into a debate conducted by the town elders over what to do against the Commander. It was even cleverer to alternate that with stylised references to Laurencia's violation, enacted in parallel

The ensemble dances produce sweep and excitement. The sudden moment when the bride is led between her husband and her father has a joyous solemnity to bring a lump to any throat. The militaristic Commander and his two henchmen, arriving like gate-crashers with body odour, are effectively ominous. Pity about the mix of recorded and live music and song. I wondered what was being mouthed to tape and what was genuine; I resented the confusion.

NADINE MEISNER

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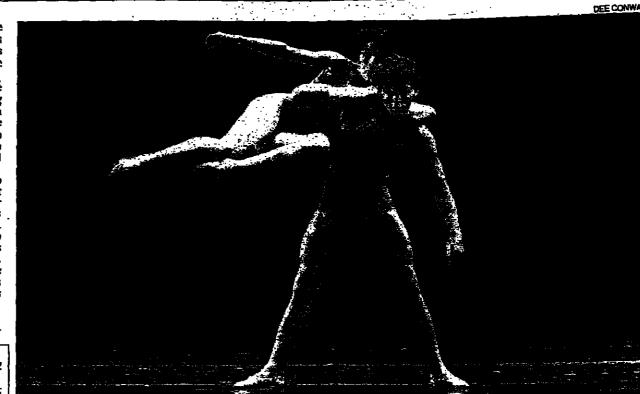
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Not-yet-famous five-is

iri Kylian's Nederlands Dans Theater 2, a showcase for the younger performers in his em-

The company was founded

all impeccably trained. Kylian's 1982 success Songs Kylian was capa-

heartfelt dances that spoke directly to an audience's experiences. In Songs of a Wayfarer, ten dancers perform a series of pas de deux set to Mahler's song cycle. Love and longing are familiar Kylian emotions, and here they are thoughtfully revealed in choreography that captures the ruminative spirit of the music. The five couples

are intensely locked into one another's focus, and the piece has a reassuring feeling of being at peace with itself. resident choreographer, is another heavyweight contributor to the repertoire, Not

NDT2 is another mat-Peacock, WC2

Violin Suite No 1 in D. minor, it is a speedy, spinning, sprightly series of virtuoso solos for three men, and adds a welcome puckish note to proceedings.

Johan Inger is one of the company's up-and-coming choreographers. You have to admire the intellectual ambition of his Sammanfall, even if it leaves you wondering. Seven dancers are locked into a confined space, like specimens in a box, with only two shafts of light to alleviate their darkness. Above them a huge eye peeps through a hole in the wall, following their every move with sinister attention.

The dancers find solace in

affair helps to banish the isolation, at least for the moment. There is no doubting the mood, but Inger's meaning is obscure. The music is by Gorecki and Wojciech Kilar. from the film score of Death

and the Maiden. The British-born Lightfoot is one of NDT1's most prominent dancers and a choreographer of promise. It would be easy to attack his choice of music — The Thieving Magpie is such a cliché — if his Skew-whiff was not such good fun. Three men and a woman wriggle and writhe through a sporty, sexy little number that sends us home with a smile NDT2 is at the Brighton Festival next week.

DEBRA CRAINE

Brunch of 1

Chiasto Ohno of NDT2 gets a lift from Brynjar Bandlien in Paul Lightfoot's sporty little number, Skew-whiff

pire, is in generous mood. Eight works are in its repertoire, and up to five can be seen in one evening, which is what we got when NDT2 kicked off its tour on Thurs-

by Kylian in 1978 as a training ground for his main company, NDTI Kylian's works still feature in the repertoire, although tyro choreographers are encouraged to make work that sits alongside that of more established dancemakers. There are 14 dancers in NDT2.

Hans van Manen, NDT's

of a Wayfarer opens the much can be said in favour of Peacock bill. In those days, his lugubrious duet Déjà Vu each other's company, and before grandiosity got the -except that it was mercifully derive strength from shared

before moving to Scotland.

THE SUNDAY TIMES

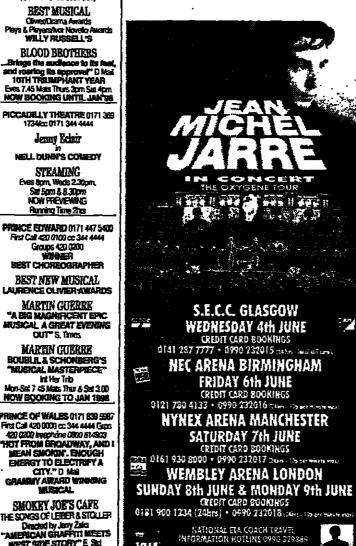


BREAKING THE SILENCE

Learn the secrets that have haunted Jodie Foster and made her one of the most powerful figures in Hollywood - both as a brilliant actress and acclaimed producer. Secrets that her brother, Buddy, now reveals. EXCLUSIVE IN NEWS REVIEW TOMORROW

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The Evening Standard Eves &pro Mate Wed & Set &pro LAST 2 WKS OF EXTENDED LADY WINDERMERE'S FAN 2.30pm, May 23 at 7.30pm, May 25 met 3pm, May 30 at 7.30pm, May 29 & 31 met 2.30pm PRAYERS OF SHERIKIN Eves 8, Mats Wed 3 & Sat 5 TOM & CLEM SEASON TO 17 MAY "DON'T MESS IT" Obs a new play by
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Directed by
RICHARD WILSON
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"WONDERFULLY COMIC"
The Speciator HER MAJESTY'S 24Y 494 5400 (big lee) CC 344 4444/450 0000 (be) Gibs 494 5454/413 3311/436 5588 ANDREW LLCVIV WESSELSER by Sebastian Barry Sun May 18 at 8pm, May 19 at 7 30pm May 25 at 8pm, May 26 at 7 30pm Tickets £10 - £19 **CONCERTS** ANDREW LLOYD WEBBER'S AWARD WINNING MUSICAL Don't Miss Sun's At The Old Vic APOLLO VICTORIA CC 0171 416 THE PHANTOM OF PALACE THEATRE 0171-434 0909 FINALS CONCERT 6055 cc 24hrs 0171 344 4444/0171 THE OPERA oc 24°ns (big lee) 0171-344 4444 (big lee) Grps 0171 413 3311 420 0000 Grps 416 6075/413 3321 Andrew Lloyd Webber's Directed by HAROLD PRINCE NOW BIGG TO DEC 97 Eves 7.45 Mats Wed & Set 3 00 Apply to Box Office daily for returns THE WORLD'S MOST POPULAR MUSICAL STARLIGHT EXPRESS LES MISERABLES THE FASTEST SHOW ON EARTH NOW IN ITS 12TH LABATT'S APOLLO, 0171 416 RECORD-BREAKING YEAR Tue & Sat 3pm Tickets from £12.50 Eves 7:30 Mats Thu & Set 2:30 Latecomers not admitted 6050/420 0000/344 4444 (fee) 416 6075/436 5588 (grps, lee) CLIFF RICHARD ungi the interval
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OPINION Paul Newman

takes on the Republican right are there lessons here for us?



THEATRE I

Alex Jennings's fine performance in the title-role absurdity of the



THEATRE 2

Gabriel, at the Soho Theatre, is an absorbing tale set in occupied Guernsey



MUSIC

Heinrich Schiff steers period instruments rather cautiously through the Missa Solemnis

Perhaps my frosty heart has been thawed by the rosy dawn of New Labour. Perhaps I am relieved that the orrible prospect of Dr Jack Cunningham becoming the umpteenth artiess codger in a row to be made. Heritage Secretary has been re-placed by the more congenial reality of nice Chris Smith - who has at least been inside a theatre or

get our national arts endowment

cannot diguise the RSC's new Hamlet



two, maybe even recently. Perhaps I am just going soft But I find myself strangely intrigued by one of Labour's arts policies. Unfortunately, it's the one that isn't going to happen for four years. I refer to the proposed National Endowment for Science and the Arts that will fund the performers, writers and (presumably) nuclear physicists of the future by tapping the royalties and goodwill of present-day celebrities. If won't happen for ages because Labour has said that it can't start until the lottery has paid for our millennium junketings. Of course, the new Government may yet junk the junketings, so perhaps we shall

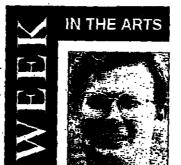
Will our celebs open their wallets?

ing idea.
Will Lord X composer of muchloved musicals, turn over the royalties from his mega-hit, Bats, to subsidise a young songwriter who may one day wrest his audience from him? I merely ask the question. Will Clarence Berk, eminent Booker winning novelist. cheerfully postpone the refurbish-ment of his proboscis so that a chunk of his latest million-pound advance can fund the rise of Jimmy Gob, the new foul-penned interary sensation from the Gorbals? You have to wonder.

Oddly enough, this very subject has sparked off a wonderful scrap in America right now between the Republican politician Newt Ging-rich and Paul Newman - actor. liberal and No. 1 dreamboat for ladies who blue-rinse. What's hap-pened is this. The National En-

America's equivalent of our Arts Council — has been a target of right-wing wrath for years. It only receives \$99 million each year, but even that is begrudged by Republicans of the Jesse Helms persuasion. After accusing the NEA of supporting all sorts of gross moral turpitudes, from ferret-rustling to scribbling in library books, these scribbling in library books, these politicians have now vowed to destroy it completely. "The Government should stay out of arts and ideas," announced one rightwing "think-tank" last month.

Well, the Clinton Administration, while perfectly happy to steer clear of ideas, is refuctant to renounce all claims to culture. So leading Democrats, along with lots of cultured celebs, have lately been fighting back. They point out that when a Hollywood studio will spend anything up to \$200 million pened is this. The National En-downent for the Arts — roughly \$99 million is not a lot for the



RICHARD MORRISON

greatest nation on earth to devote to arts subsidy.

This pact of lefties and luvvies has turned Gingrich an ugly shade of purple. "If the rich and famous people who lobby us would dedicate I per cent of their income to an

Arts," he furned, "they would fund a bigger system than the National Endowment for the Arts."

Hearing this, Paul Newman has reached for his gun. Or rather (since he's now a bit wrinkly for Westerns) his magazine. He is copublisher of The Nation, and this month he pens an editorial pouring scorn on Gingrich's notion, to say nothing of his maths: "This handful of celebrities would need an annual gross income of \$10 billion to fund the endowment at its current level," Newman argues.

f course we must be wary about making comparisons between Gingrich's crude rhetorical invective and Labour's rather idealistic endowment plan in Britain. We spend far more public money on the arts than America does. And there are far fewer culture-millionaires here

California.

Even so, there are intriguing parallels. Some British cultural figures are already generous arts patrons. Cameron Mackintosh has made an admirable offer of "matching funds" for cash-strapped applicants to the Arts for Everyone scheme. Paul McCartney sank millions into his Liverpool Institute for the Performing Arts, and persuaded many of his chums, from the Queen downwards, to do the same.

Alan Ayckbourn has spent half a million quid propping up his Scarborough theatre. And many composers and artists set up trust funds to disburse their royalties to deserving young talents after they die. If the Labour Party thinks that it can persuade, bully or compel a lot of other luvvies to think philanthropic, good luck to it. A new Government has gotta dream.

boy, it goes with the territory. But more realistic is an idea which Labour's pre-election policy document groped towards without quite articulating. Taken as a whole. Britain's entertainment and tourism industry is highly profitable. So why not create a climate - moral, fiscal, whatever - that makes it advantageous for monster-hit record labels to help support excellent but impecunious classical orchestras: or television companies to subsidise the regional theatres that nurture the talent they need for their soap-operas?

It's already happening a bit the record industry backs the Brits performing-arts school; and Carlton TV was a generous sponsor of Sam Mendes's Donmar Ware-house. It could happen much more. Why shouldn't airlines and hotel chains, for instance, support the theatrical and musical life that

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brings them so much tourist trade? This sort of self-help, of course, is a very Old Tory idea. So clearly it should appeal to New Labour, I look forward to hearing nice Chris

Madness in this method

id you know they cremated their monarchs in dear old Denmark? At any rate, that is what one must conclude from the opening image of Matthew Warchus's . production of Hamlet. No Barnardo, no Marcellus, no ramparts, no midnight, no ghost Just Alex Jennings's Prince in a black suit, empty-ing what are presumably the ashes of his father on to the ground while photos of his younger self cavorting with a dog and his parents flash across the wall behind him. By the time the action

abruptly cuts to a palace party. dancing to rock music amid the balloons and champagne. one knows that this will be an unconventional revival and can only hope that it will also be fresh and lively. Thanks to Jennings's fine Hamlet, it is sometimes that. More often, though, it leaves one boggling at the cheek of a director who seems to think he is patching up a film script for Hollywood not staging Shakespeare in his

There is every reason to resist bland reverence for Hamlet, and some justification for chopping it. But several of Warchus's cuts remove as much sap as bank. After all, what is the effect of removing the entire opening scene and asking Edward Petherbridge's ghost to enter Claudins's party in a green-lit smoking jacket and lure his son to a truncated encounter in some stately hall? To destroy the feel, vital to the play, that order has been horribly affronted, not just in the family. not just in Denmark, but in

the cosmos itself. But Warchus is not interest ed in matters metaphysical or even political. Fortinbras and the threat of war disappear totally. Thus the play ends

Hamlet RST, Stratford

with Horatio bidding goodnight to his sweet prince and begging flights of angels to sing him to his rest, while photos of the boy Hamlet playing with his daddy reappear in close-up behind the assembled corpses. It is as if Shakespeare's most complex tragedy were a sentimental American father-son drama and Elsinore a rather large

Don't expect to hear "oh that this too too solid flesh would melt" or "bid the soldiers shoot" or many a famous and important line in between. Warchus injects a spurious episode in which Derbhle Crotty's Ophelia sends Hamlet back his letters and shirt open, he bangs despairingly at her door, and another in which Diana Quick's Gertrude, having been read Hamlet's account of his adventures at sea, tells Horatio to "commend a mother's care to him". Yet poor Jennings does not even get the chance to deliver

the great soliloguy that begins

"how all occasions do inform against me". But he still contrives to give

us a grave, wary prince who loses a frightening amount of self-control when more than intellectual passion is de-manded of him. The "to be" speech comes across with force and clarity, although I don't see why it has to be displaced. or why Jennings needs to point a pistol at his head while he speaks it. His ability to combine intelligence and feeling. irony and rage, leaves one wishing he had a director who trusted Shakespeare more. With such a director,

Ouick's svelte Gertrude, Paul and Crotty's Ophelia, pathencally tarted up in flaming lipstick and high heels, might have achieved deeper anguish in extremis. But the main victim is David Ryall's Polonius, who is demoted by the programme from chief minister to "old family friend" and loses every line that suggests he is anything but a kindly codger comically puzzled by Hamlet's antics. Is that Shakespeare? Is that why the role has attracted a thousand good actors? No, no, no.

BENEDICT NIGHTINGALE



Alex Jennings, a fine Hamlet in a poor production, ponders fate with an old friend

Fully occupied for the duration

YOU can tell why the judges of the LWT playwriting award chose Moira Buffini as their winner in 1996. Her compelling narrative, nearly three hours long, picks you up by the lapels and hurls you through the fractured lives of a family of women in occupied Guernsey in 1943. In an old farmhouse by the sea. the women, neatly stepped in age from ten-year-old Estelle to the gossipy home-help Mrs Lake, either collaborate with the new German garrison officer, or, like Estelle, put dead mice on his pillow. What makes this conflict of interests so astute is the conflict of personalities.

You rarely get relationships loaded with greater moral ambivalence than that between Lisa Harrow's widow, Jeanne, and Philip Fox's Major Von Pfunz. "Do tell me about your wonderful name, major. It sounds like flatulence," says the upper-class beauty before she realises he speaks English.

Harrow's triumph is to expose that awful grey area between getting by and genuine human contact with an enemy who professes to see through lies to an honesty so pure it hurts us". It's as discomforting to us as it is to Harrow's compromised, brandy-swilling aristocrat. Despite the high-pitched, unnerving giggle. Fox's mesmerising portrait of Von Plunz manages to avoid the sinister caricature,

Gabriel Soho Theatre

generating both empathy and fear for the warped idealist and damaged romantic. The play opens on Jennifer Scott-Malden's Lily (a Jewess and Jeanne's daughter-in-law) discovering a young man with no clothes and no memory washed up on the beach. Inevitable questions about his

identity threaten the lives of the women who harbour him. particularly when the young man they dub Gabriel discovers he can speak fluent German. While Gemma Eglinton's precocious Estelle does her Famous Five bit, stealing the major's diary, the serious matter of identity is played out between Scott-Malden's intense Lily and Stephen Billington's eerily angelic Gabriel.

Despite the plot ballooning melodramatically in places, even going dangerously pearshaped at the end, this is a richly themed, enthralling new play. Directed by Fiona Buffini, Moira's sister, some of the acting is a little unsteady, but it should naturally tighten in time. Julian McGowan's cluttered set. awash with wartime browns. generates a wonderful sense of musty claustrophobia.

> James CHRISTOPHER

Scaling the choral heights

FOR the most part, Heinrich Schiff trod quite warily at the Festival Hall as he directed Beethoven's Missa Solemnis. The Austrian conductor is, I believe, relatively new to cho-ral works on this scale and, apart from urging the music forward so that it was accomplished in little over 70 minutes, he obtained a performance that was secure rather

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He had a notably fine response from the Brighton Festival Chorus who impressed by their firmness of tone and vigour of spirit. Once past an opening Kyrie that came out more like "Cheerie" the singers became readily responsive to Beethoven's cometimes extreme demands of register and sustained

The chorus at times obliterated the period instruments of the Orchestra of the Age of Enlightenment, especially the often wan strings in places like the opening of the Gloria. And the silvery violin solo of the leader, Elizabeth Wallfisch, in the serene Benedictus was apt to come and go like moon-

shine peeping through clouds. Some of the brightest singing was to be heard in the latter part of the Credo. The four soloists worked well together on a foundation of Stephen Gadd's sometimes growly bass, with James Oxley, a tenor of clear articulation, Catherine Wyn-Rogers, a velvety alto, and Judith Howarth's soprano soaring

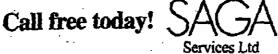
brightly above them. Schiff was inclined to beat severely metrical rhythms when a looser degree of phrasing would have illuminated more of the music's inner spirit, but there was here the makings of a more visionary insight into a major masterwork that one hopes experi-

NOEL GOODWIN

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Blair should be glad he is no President

The White House proposes, Downing Street disposes, says Bronwen Maddox

pronounced itself neutral on Tony Blair's resounding victory, taking care to praise John Major's achievements; in private, the Administration is delighted. When President Clinton called to congratulate Mr Blair, he told him that they shared a "common agenda of purpose". In that, Mr Clinton echoed most of the American media, which has portrayed Tony throughout as a reflection of Bill.

But the first ten days of the Labour Government have confirmed what was already obvious: Tony Blair is not Bill Clinton. He is more radical, he is more left-wing. and he has incomparably more power than an American President to put his ideas into action.

Ironically, some of Mr Blair's most inspiring proposals are profoundly American in their spirit of checking the power of government. The question now is whether Labour will carry through those constitutional reforms, or whether the temptations of retaining the full powers of Downing Street will prove irresistible.

In American coverage of the British elections, the diche that Biair-is-Clinton was relentless. In part, no doubt, that arose from the task of translating the politics of a far-off country into the language of the American heartland. But many US writers also projected their

growing disenchantment with their President onto Mr Blair. Maureen Dowd, the New York Times columnist, pronounced Mr Blair cloned from a clone" while The New Yorker's Joe Klein credited him with "magisterial

only dreams That portrayal ignores the profound differences between the two men and the two offices. For a start, Mr Blair achieved a radical transformation of his party; in nudging Democrats towards the centre, Mr

Clinton did not. It is heresy within new Labour to reveal old Labour instincts. By nervous of securing the party's nomination in 2000, is playing to both old and new Democratic galleries. Tellingly, before Mr Blair's reforms secured such a stunning endorsement, he was loathed by many in his own party, a tribute Mr Clinton has not enjoyed.

Despite Labour's transformation. Mr Blair remains more leftwing than any imaginable American president. He is commit-ted to reducing income inequality: in America, equality of opportunity is all, and attempts to redistribute the proceeds are seen as an attack on individualism and enterprise.

But most importantly, the Blair-Clinton parallels ignore the differences between the White House and Downing Street. A British Prime Minister has power of which an American President, checked and balanced by Congress, can only dream. With a majority of 179, Mr Blair seems omnipotent.

The only rational tactic of a modern American President is to promise all things to all people on the campaign trail - and to continue that ploy once elected, in the hope of coaxing policy through Congress. A speech condemning truancy may pass without opposition; anything more ambitious requires months of lobbying to build support. It may be in Mr Clinton's nature to try to please all sides, but it is also the requirement of his office. In Britain, a coy silence on future policies proved a useful electoral ploy for Labour. But that is unnecessary in government Given the decisions looming on Europe and Northern Ireland, for example, it is also scarcely possible. It is particularly startling, then, that Mr Blair has chosen to use his

n public, the White House has office to surrender powers of government, beginning with the deci-sion this week to give the Bank of England "operational" control over short-term expediency in the move, given the rising trend of interest rates. But the breathtaking fact remains: within days of assuming power. Mr Blair has surrendered control of monetary policy to an outside body.

He has also announced a ban on

foreign funding of political parties. and appears committed to a Freedom of Information Bill. as well as the proposals for devolution and reform of the House of Lords well flagged ahead of the election. At their most ambitious, these propos-als are American in spirit. They echo the principles inserted by Thomas Jefferson at the heart of the American Constitution, which granted the legislature and the judiciary power to check the executive, and shared power between central government and the regions. In a sense, that comparison is grandiose; Mr Blair's reforms are piecemeal, lacking the sweeping coherence of the American Constitution. Given that Labour spent 18 years in the wilderness dreaming of power, though, it is inspiring that Mr Blair can contemplate using the great powers of his office to surrender control.

new reasons for worry. Labour has embarked on these changes with all the brevity of consultation permitted to a British government. It appears has power that Mr Blair may now grant MPs a chance to of which a discuss the revamping of Prime Minister's Ques-tion Time, as Mr Major pleaded yesterday. But he has offered no such

Yet the past week has also offered

A Prime

Minister

President

debate on the Bank of England's role, a proposal not even mentioned in his manifesto.

There are many hints, behind the myriad ambiguities, that the instinct to retain control may win the day. In the Bank's case, Labour has cumstances" in which the Treasury can resume control. In industrial policy, Labour will retain independent regulators - but has said that they should be more "accountable" to government, presumably.
 Most tellingly, the Home Secretary. Jack Straw, in proposing to incorporate the European Convention on Human Rights into British law. has shied away from giving the courts the power to say whether the

the real tests of whether liberal principles will win through are, of course, Scotland and the House of Lords. In each case, Mr Blair could do worse than to look across the Atlantic for encouragement that power can be divided, as well as for solutions. Clearly, the West Lothian question is contentious, but Britain is not the first country to face the problem: from an American perspective, Britain's agonising over regional representation has an air of rein-

Government is acting legally.

venting the wheel. The paralysis which has de-scended on Mr Clinton's second term is not the best advertisement for the American Constitution. Many in Washington question whether Jefferson's checks and balances have finally brought government to a halt. But Britain is scarcely in danger of reaching that point; as Mr Blair has recognised, the British would benefit from the adoption of more restraints on governmental power.

It is no insult to be called a clone if the prototype is Jefferson. The worry is that when it comes to the crunch, the powers of Britain's elected dictatorship will prove

From the Jacobeans to Edward Lear, an innocent vision of paradise delights us, says Derwent May

WHEN MY daughter was younger, she used to sing a playground

We were going to Ticky-Tucky We were going to the fair When we met a chiquachita With a flower in her hair Oh shake it baby, shake it Shake it if you can Fran C I S to

C-I-S-co Shake it if you can Oh wobble to the bottom And wobble to the top

And round and round and round

And round until you stop. It was not quite a nonsense song. because it gave some instructions. The girls stood in a ring, with one in the middle, who in turn showed a flower, put her hands on her hips and shook them, and finally wobbled down to the ground and up again, before all the girls went spinning round. But I marvelled at the way so many nonsensical elements had woven themselves into what had ended as a seamless song - the mysterious land of Ticky-Tucky" (once Kentucky perhaps); the alluring figure of the chiquachita where you might have expected a dull senorita; the glimmering shadow of San Francisco in the chorus — which the girls probably did not even recognise.

Why should we be interested in more nonsense when so much has been poured out during the election? Well, there is bad and good

Who, or why, or what is nonsense?

nonsense. That surprising scholar Noel Malcolm, world expert on both Thomas Hobbes and Bosnia, has just unearthed a forgotten cache of good nonsense from the

17th century. His new book, The Origins of English Nonsense (HarperCollins, E18), brings back into circulation some splendid nonsense poems written by the "water poet" John Taylor, who in the early 1600s used to lerry actors and writers across the Thames to the playhouses and low life of Southwark, and who won fame with his comic parodies of their "high style" verse. Some of Taylor's poems are pure

nonsense, such as the one actually called "Non-sense" that begins with the wonderful wish "Oh, that my lungs could bleat like buttered peas", and then pursues its mad argument with lines such as:

I grant that rainbows being bulled asleep Snort like a woodknife in a lady's Malcolm argues that there is a clear line of descent from this to the 19th-century nonsense poetry of Edward Lear and Lewis Carroll. But he also believes that nonsense. verse always has some kind of literary origin, and that it generally, like Taylor's, begins in parody.

Technically be may be right. But I think there is another element in

good nonsense. To me, it always seems to spring from a kind of innocent, paradisial vision. You find a glimpse of that in my daughter's playground song. In their book The Language and Lore of Schoolchildren, long and Peter Opie give examples of other chil-

dren's nonsense or "tangletalk": I went to the pictures next Tuesday And took a front seat at the back. I said to the lady behind me. i cannot see over your hat.

Such verses, they say, are "characteristic of our native English wit". The essence of this good nonsense, verse is that, in a joyous way, it hints at the existence of the difficult,

contingent world and yet proposes a wonderful escape from it. It is not untrammelled fantasy. The realm of difficulty is always there to be coped with.

On a quite simple level, the nonsense rhymester has to cope with the fact that only a certain number of words exist and that they have to be pronounced in a certain way. In an essay called Notes on the Comic. W.H. Auden quotes Lear's limerick....

There was an Old Man of Who danced a quadrille with a

gentieman lived in Ceylon, he would have had to dance with a swan". In either case, the rhyming lines turn the inescapably awk-ward facts of the sounds of language into a triumph of ingenuity and fun. More generally, the who are generally enjoying them-

having to face or dodge reality. In one of the greatest of all paradisial nonsense poems, Lear's Owl and Pussy-Cat need a stout boat, money and a marriage licence before they can "dance by the light of the moon. the moon." It is not all plain sailing

incidentally, thinking of the "mince and slices of quince" that made up the Owl's and the Pussy-Cat's wedding feast, it is noticeable that spectacular food - very much a thing of paradise - has always

featured in good nonsense. Taylor himself offers a "Bill of Fare" including "one phoenix in white broth" and "a lobster fried in steaks", and in an anonymous poem of the period:

The man in the moon made Christ-And bade the seven stars to eat good

We can trace a similar vision in such diverse works of art as Heath Robinson's elaborate machines for eating peas, and even the cucumber-sandwich world of Wilde's The

Importance of Being Earnest.
Noel Malcolm identifies one particular object of satirical parody in some of Taylor's poems as fustian" - the almost meaningless use of fine language just to impress, a notable element in the

had nonsense of his time. We, too, have had enough fustian lately. Good nonsense awaits, with

democratic titan unbound

Once London has an elected mayor,

every city in Britain will want one

eaders of The Times and other daily papers will be ignorant of the most radical proposal yet to emerge from the Blair Government. It was put forward, unpublicised, at the election and passed by Cabinet on Thursday, to be included in the Queen's Speech. The proposal could upheave a corner of British democracy, but received not an inch of notice as it concerned local government. I refer to an elected mayor for London.

British politics keeps local government below stairs. A thousand times more column inches are given to the inanities of Prime Minister's questions than to the one third of public administration that is local. Cities and counties are treated as ridiculous, parochial and Their participants are second-rate. Their democracy is merely a cumbersome opinion poil.

We find foreign cities fascinating. Mayor Giuliani's war on crime in New York fills the British press. We read of Barcelona's revival under Mayor Maragall. When Jacques Chirac ran as the first directlyelected mayor of Paris, doubling the previous turnover, he received blanket coverage in Britain. More French citizens can now name their

local mayor than Britons can name their Prime Minreports on the civic politics of Washington, Los Angeles. Paris. Berlin, St Petersburg, Jerusalem, but strangely not

the politics of London, Birmingham or Manchester. It takes a riot or a serial killer to get a British journal-

ist out of SW1. I have no doubt of the reason. Foreign cities have elected mayors. They have individuals whose names are known nationally and internationally from the swirl of publicity that surrounds their elec-tion. When M Chirac took over Paris, he was exposed and rendered accountable not as a party but as a person. He had to deliver or lose his job. He put city workers into overalls and swept the city, its roads and its transport system, dean. Mr Giuliani tackled New York crime in the same spirit. Pages of The New York Times are

daily devoted to his doings.

Those who have been lobbying for an elected mayor for London have been forcefully opposed by local Labour leaders who saw a mayor as a threat to rule by party machine. That opposition has been overcome by the personal commitment of Mr Blair. The proposal is now on course, albeit with the hesitation of an unnecessary referendum. The Queen's Speech will pledge a referendum on a Londonwide assembly and elected mayor, to be held next May. Meanwhile, a Green Paper on the mayoralty and its relationship with the assembly will be published this summer. followed by a White Paper.

Assuming referendum approval, a full London government Bill will be presented in autumn 1998 and should be passed the following spring. The first date for a mayoral election would thus be May 1999, or more probably a year later. This is a snail's-pace reform for an innovation that recent polls suggest has the support of 60-80 per cent of London's population. But a slowhaked loaf is better than no loaf at all. We take heart.

The cause is winning, but not yet won. A feature of British democracy noted by observers since de Tocqueville is that prominent citizens play little part in the leadership of their community, yet despise those who do. They put all

al eggs in the mons basket and, when the eggs rot, turn not to democracy but to boards, quangos, regulators and inspectors. Thus we have "govern-

ment hit squads" going in to run failing services. rather than find a way of making that service more publicly accountable. This week we cheered when the unelected Bank of England was freed from the supposedly outra-geous shackles of democracy, and left to form economic policy in the privacy of a professional conclave. Recent debates on a mayoralty have revealed a horror among many Labour. Tory and Liberal Democrat politicians that mayors might mean corrupt politics and administrative indiscipline, dominated by maverick personalities. (How Westminster seeks motes in

the eyes of others.) Mayor Barry of Washington is always cited, as if all foreign mayors were corrupt and all British councillors clean. An American friend, gazing out over the London skyline, remarked that a corrupt mayor could hardly do



Master of Manhattan: pages of The New York Times are devoted daily to Mayor Giuliani's efforts

worse than an obviously corrupt planning system. But nobody in my experience has a greater aversion to democracy than the British Establishment. A fear of mayors is the rebirth of the aristocrat's fear of the franchise, the fear of the rogue elephant, of the mob.

Britain at present is hardly raddled with an excess of democracy. A mayoralty properly struc-tured will not undermine local government nor threaten the privileges of too many politicians. I would give mayors only limited resources and confine their powers to representing their towns and cities and heading the executive machine. (There are dozens of "weak" or "strong" mayoral models to choose from, gathered by Gerry Stoker for the Royal Institute of Public Administration.) The mayor's influence would derive from being the focus of debate on a city's future and the embodiment of its identity. A mayoral election is an all-singing and dancing festival of democracy, a celebration of what J.K. Galbraith calls "the civic

Such a festival might bring some exotic characters on stage, and, some able ones at present deterred from elected office by having to serve a party apprenticeship. Thus if Lord Gowrie wants to finance London's arts. let him stand for mayor. If Stephen Norris wants to run London transport, let him stand for mayor. If Tony Banks tens of the House of Commons and wants to reorder London sport, let Rayusford, the new junior minister for London, wants that title, let him seek election on that ticket. Other hats may soon be sailing towards the ring, from David Mellor. Jeffrey Archer, Michael Cassidy, possibly Richard Branson. Hardly

a day passes without someone murmuring that they might stand. I can sense the shudder through the conventional parties. Surely the essence of British party politics, they say, is to make government proof against such mavericks. But they cannot have it both ways. If the mayoralty is to be impotent, why be so fastidious about who stands for it? If the mayoralty is to have more substantial powers, as over trans-port and police, good people should be encouraged to stand and their accountability should be rigorous. But the problem for the White Paper is not how to get good people to stand, but how to control the numbers. There will have to be a two-stage process. This will be the hustings equivalent of the London

hostage situations among others.

What is exhibarating about civic elections in America or France is the vitality they give to politics as a whole. They are a new conduit of public activity, detached or at least semi-detached from formal parties. In Britain they would distract attention from the cardboard fedi-

its fired rituals. The Greater him stand for mayor. If Nick London Council, abolished by Margaret Thatcher and Kenneth Baker, indeed became a monster. But it was alive. When the democratic baby was gleefully tossed out with the GLC bathwater, public discussion about the future of the capital came to a halt. Londoners were never asked if they wanted a new Tube, or a better Thames, or more pedestrian streets. They got what they were given.

entral government, said Bahac, is a giant power wielded by pygmies". A mayoralty would have pygmy power, but it would be wielded by a democratic giant. A titular leader of London would have a personal mandate of possibly two to three millions votes, more than any one individual in Britain.

Once such a mayor is on the standary liorizon, every city and town in Britain will want one. In which case, I cannot see what is to stop them choosing their mayors by direct franchise without the permission of central government. They should just do it. Here is the basis for a truly populist revolution, brightest feather in Mr Blair's radical cap. Perhaps by the millen-nion he might be fed up with Downing Street. Perhaps he might stand for a nobler office of his own

Sensitive soul

LABOUR'S massed ranks are clearing their diaries for June 4 when Peter Mandelson, the new minister without portfolio, will be shown on BBC2 unburdening himself to the psychologist Oliver James. Mandelson, whose icy carapace loomed over the recent election campaign, has already



Human: Mandelson

recorded the 20-minute interview in which he speaks emotionally of his childhood.

"We were flabbergasted that he agreed to the interview," says James, whose other interviewees in the series, called The Chair, are an edectic bunch including the hypnotist Paul McKenna, the comedian Julian Clary and Patsy Palmer. Bianca in EastEnders.

Mandelson speaks of his earliest experience of Downing Street, when as a boy he ate smoked salmon and asparagus on the terrace of No 10 while watching the Trooping the Colour with his mother's father, Herbert Morrison, then a Labour Cabinet Minister. He credits his mother with his

early political education and says she was "softly spoken but with tremendous steel". Though fond of his father, he blames him and others of his generation for the rise genuinely think he is a misunderstood person, says

James of Mandelson. "He comes

across as very human. Prick him she decided to brave it and

 Extra bouquets for Susan Patterson, the American soprano playing Violetta in the English National Opera's revival of La Traviata. Last week, she twisted her ankle during rehearsals and even by the time of the dress rehearsal was still on crutches. Several ice-packs later,



Word war LUST and professional acrimony

nightie for the curtain call.

fill the pages of Handsome Is: Adventures with Saul Bellow, by the Nobel Laureate's former agent Harriet Wasserman. The book, which is soon to be published in America, tells of an early nocturnal encounter between Wasserman and her most famous client.

night revealing her heavily ban-

When they first met, the pair spent a night together during which, according to Wasserman. she kept asking permission to touch the author "as if he were a museum objet d'art". The whole night was a "comic nightmare". writes Wasserman, a view shared by Bellow, who said "he hadn't had a date like that since under the Coney Island boardwalk when he was in high school."

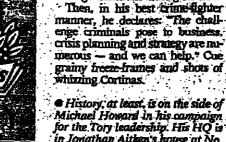
Wasserman subsequently lost Bellow to Martin Amis's agent, Angirl power already



Wasserman tells of how, when asked by Wylie's lawyer to meet her rival, she replied: "I would rather meet you at the 42nd Street and 8th Avenue subway and clean the men's room toilet bowl with my tongue". No resentment then.

Here to help

THERE is a touch of the Sweeney about the latest venture of Sir Peter Imbert, Commissioner of the Metropolitan Police from 1987-93. He has set up a security company called Capital Eye, slogan "Keeping an eye out for you". Imbert advocates a "more holistic approach" to security and promises advice on



Michael Howard in his campaign for the Tory leadership. His HQ is in Jonathan Aithen's house at No. 8 Lard North Street. One of the few London houses to contain a baliroom, it used to belong to Brendan Bracken, Churchill's close friend, and was where the anti-appeasers within the Tory party plotted Chamberlain's fall and Churchill's ascent at the beginning of the Second World War.

True Blue TONY BANKS, the new Minister for Sport, has chosen not to sit in the Royal Box on FA Cup day so that he can be down in the stands with his fellow Chelsea supporters, : "I don't think Her Majesty would appreciate it if I start shouting with

my hands in the air when Chelsea



score," says Banks, a staunch republican, who insists he has paid for his ricker.

And what of other prominent Chelsea supporters from the House? I understand John Major is not going," said Banks. "He thinks he is a bit of a first. But with the luck he's had lately his rinx

TRUST THE PEOPLE

For the Tories, democracy is too precious to be rationed

Tories have too often seen expanding the elists the vote in one election, then the activists ectorate as a "leap in the dark". Their fears may ask why the MPs deserve their vote in have proved phantoms. Mass democracy has, far more often than not, returned Conservatives to power. After last week's drubbing at the polis the Tories may be tempted to echo the Iron Duke and "damn democracy", but it is by extending their own franchise that the party can best recover. The Tory party needs to choose a new

leader quickly to oppose a Prime Minister who is already exploiting the vacuum to make the whole job of opposition more difficult. The House of Commons has had its dignities infringed by Mr Blair's announcement of the changes he wishes to institute to Prime Minister's Question Time. The Commons needs a defender, quickly, and so do the shattered Tory ranks within the House. It is not, however, only Tory MPs who must be rallied by a new leader; so must those Tory supporters and potential sympathisers in the many areas of the country where there are no Conservative MPs.

As our report, and survey, on the front page indicate there is a growing appetite among activists for a say in the choice of the next leader. It is very far from an idle aspiration. Robin Hodgson, the chairman of the National Union of Conservative Associations, believes that even within the tight timetable likely for the leadership election it is possible to canvass grass-roots opinion

convincingly. The manner of the next leader's election is a matter for the 1922 Committee, Mr Hodgson believes that the next 1922 chairman should construct an electoral college for the next leader with 20 per cent of the votes reserved for party volunteers. The proportion may not be ideal, but the principle is impeccable. The party's workers deserve the right to participate in the choice of their new leader. If Tory MPs wish to deny their activothers. Those inclined to caution can, rightly. point out that the leader of the Tory party should be able to command the support of a majority of his fellow MPs. It is, however, very hard to conceive of a Tory leader, chosen by the volunteers who select MPs, who would be unacceptable to those MPs.

The scale of defeat makes the need for reform more urgent. If the Tories are to win back sears in Scotland, Wales, the cities and the suburbs then the voice of Conservatives in those constituencies must be heard. The parliamentary Tory party has been flattered as the "world's most sophisticated" electorate. Outside the Vatican, it is certainly one of the smallest. One hundred and sixty-four predominantly county members makes, in every sense, an insufficiently broad electoral base for the party of One Nation.

It is no longer acceptable for the tribal customs of Fifties England to govern the operations of a party in Nineties Britain. Beyond providing a social outlet for the retired and social-climbing facilities for the rest, the Tory party has proved increasingly incapable of attracting new members. People join political movements for idealistic reasons. Social factors play a part, but the primary purpose of political activity for most members is the desire, however modest, to change the world. If it is to survive and prosper, the Tory party must give its volunteers a say in the determination of leader and policy. Lord Randolph Churchill argued in 1883, "if you want to gain the confidence of the working classes, let them have a share, and a large share - a real share and not a sham share - in your party councils and in your party government". More than a century later, the hard-working classes who form the backbone of the Conservative Party deserve that share.

RICHES OR RUIN

In Venice, there is no margin for scientific error

Anchored by piles driven into mud, rock and subtly treacherous natural aquatic environment, made habitable only by accumulated experience, skilled engineering and in-ceasing maintenance of its canals and surrounding lagoon. The city has braced itself down the centuries against the menace of the sea, which yet again this week submerged parts of Venice in four feet of brine. Venice can shrug off the occupation of St Mark's belltower by hoofigan separatists, the sea is an enemy that commands respect.

But Venice has also historically embraced the sea as opportunity and source of its once vast wealth - a pre-industrial synergy that has not translated well into this century. Until aqueducts compensated for the excessive extraction of groundwater to meet the needs of the neighbouring Marghera petrochemical complex. Vertice subsided more than 20cm within a mere two decades. A deep channel dredged through the lagoon for oil tankers upset the tidal flows which irrigate the canals. In both cases, development had been judged risk-free; the ensuing near-fatal damage to Venice's fabric was arrested only after an international outcry and at enormous, continuing cost.

That is the background against which Agip, the Italian oil and gas company, is planning to drill for natural gas in the bed of the Adriatic just outside the Venetian lagoon. Agip claims that this huge investment, involving 15 seams and 19 rigs, would bring jobs and revenue to Venice, without causing further subsidence. The first part of this claim is true; related marine services could for example help to breathe new economic life into the magnificent Renaissance shipyards of the Arsenale. But Agip's assertion that no environmental risk is involved requires the most rigorous scientific scrutiny and an unequivocally positive verdict.

That may be beyond the reach of science. salt water, Venice has to contend with a Subsidence occurs when gas or oil is extracted from a seam, creating a void. Whether subsidence is localised depends on whether the field drilled is connected by subterranean channels to other fields. Each site has a different geological profile; in the North Sea, "localised" settlement extends over nearly 60 miles. Venice is far closer than that to the Adriatic site. The precise extent of a field, or whether it is linked to others, cannot be determined with sufficient accuracy in advance: uncertainty can be reduced but not eliminated by trial drilling. trial pumping or geological surveys.

Agip contends that it can control subsidence by the injection of seawater into the seam as gas is extracted. This technology, it says, accelerates the natural seepage of seawater into the void created by extraction - a process that has not prevented subsidence in other fields. But injection is normally done only after extraction, by which time settlement has begun. Agin has further promised to install a "spy well" to monitor possible subsidence, and a protective barrier between the gas field and the coast. If the company's technology is foolproof, it is not clear why it needs these extra precautions or how they would help: subsidence, once begun, is irreversible.

The decision lies not with Venice but with Edo Ronchi, the Italian Environment Minister, who this weekend receives an environmental impact report. He should also weigh the adverse findings by the Veneto College of Engineers against Agip's proposals. To flourish, Venice must be not a theme park but a living city; provided it can be proved that its vulnerable fabric will be unaffected. Agip could be an ally in its economic regeneration. If such a guarantee is scientifically impossible, permission should be denied. In Venice, there is no margin for error.

NEW CENTURY, NEW OSCAR

Good can come out of gaol and even out of bad verse

A century ago Oscar Wilde was released from Reading gaol. In our Weekend section Peter Ackroyd discusses the final three years of Wilde's life in exile and disgrace. Because it was Wilde who was dying, the years were not entirely sad. The man who joked when made to stand in the rain while waiting for the van to take him to prison, "If this is the way Queen Victoria treats her prisoners, she doesn't deserve to have any," was not one to wait in the antercom of Père Lachaise cemetery without sparks.

So he made his deathbed witticisms. Accepting a glass of champagne just before his death: "I am dying, as I have lived, beyond my means." Or commenting on the lamous wallpaper in his seedy room in the Hotel d'Alsace: "My wallpaper and I are fighting a duel to the death. One or other of us has to go." And as they all knew, it was Oscar not the wallpaper that went.

in its attitudes to prison, capital punishment, homosexuality and witty intellectuals, Britain has grown up a little since then. The Ballad of Reading Gaol, which Wilde wrote in prison, helped to change those artitudes. It is one of those good bad poems, like If, which makes it into the anthologies and wins league tables of favourite poems. But if you parse what it says about the effects of Quicklime, tents of blue that prisoners call the sky, and the unfortunate propensity of each man to kill the thing he loves, it is sentimental, platitudinous or wrong. The direct language and bouncing rhymes of the ballad tradition make Wilde's prison lament easy to learn by heart and hideously impossible to forget thereafter.

Wilde was an aesthete who said that art was the only serious thing in the world, but that the artist was the only person who was never serious. He would have enjoyed the incongruity that the poem in which he abandoned flippancy and artifice had more effect than anything else he wrote. As a modernist at the tail-end of Victorian society. Wilde would have been new Labour. Joe Klein, the "anonymous" author of Primary Colors, wrote that the advantage of new Labour was that it gave one the opportunity to wear designer clothes without the need to feel guilty. Wilde got there a century before Klein in The Soul of Man under Socialism, when he said that Socialism removed the tedious necessity of worrying about other people.

Modern critics admire the intelligence of Wilde's social essays. And the master of paradox has now been granted his place in Poets' Corner. A century ago Wilde represented degeneracy and weakness for his contemporaries. But he was a brave man. who protested against the vulgarity of his age. And yet, artistically, he was himself subject to vulgarity of an opposite kind. Reading gaol was a disaster for Wilde, But his ballad about it has been a great success. LETTERS TO THE EDITOR 1 Pennington Street, London El 9XN Telephone 0171-782 5000

Free information pledge recalled

From the Director of the Campaign for Freedom of Information

Sir, Your leader, "The freedom files" (May 9), makes an excellent case for rapid legislation on freedom of information - which now looks set to be delayed by several years, by which time ministers may have learnt habits of secrecy that will be difficult to

But what a shame that the case for early action should even need to be made. For as long ago as January 1991 the then deputy Labour leader and Shadow Home Secretary, Roy Hattersley, announced that freedom of information "is not only suitable for early enactment. It is ready for early enactment. If a Labour government was elected . . . i would be able to send the headings of a Bill to parliamentary draughtsmen on the following

Yours sincerely.
MAURICE FRANKEL. Director, The Campaign for Freedom of information. Suite 102

16 Baldwins Gardens, ECl. May 9.

Redundant MPs

From Mr D. R. Tudor

Sir, Mr Hugo Summerson and others (letter, May 6) are on a very weak platform when they argue that the new Parliament should "embrace the challenges of being a modern em-ployer" so that MPs who lose their seats would receive the same consideration as most people who lose their jobs, eg, statutory redundancy payment based on length of service, and help with career management.

The fact is that MPs refuse to be treated as employees and insist upon being classed as self-employed. They do so because it is to their considerable financial advantage. Despite this, they still receive most of the benefits of employed persons. What other self-employed person contributes so little towards his pension? What other self-employed person pays so little for his National Insurance stamp; is given an annual allowance towards his secretarial needs: or receives any compensation for the loss

of employment? Those 135 Members who have just lost their jobs knew exactly what the terms, conditions and status of their appointments were to ably, if they had not been satisfied with them they would not have fought tooth and nail to be elected.

Yours faithfully, D. R. TUDOR, 23 Kennedy Road, Shrewsbury, Shropshire.

May 6. From Mr S. T. Dobbs

Sir, Mr Hugo Summerson is wrong to advocate statutory redundancy payments for MPs.

When standing for election, prospective candidates are knowingly freelance individuals tendering for a short-term contract of at most five years. They are eligible to put themselves forward for a further contract, but tendering is competitive, and they are liable to be sacked from office if the general public deem that their performance has been unsatisfactory. This is not redundancy from a per-manent position, and it is up to the MP to make arrangements for other employment if he or she is not re-

There are many other government employees who live by short-term contracts and are a great deal worse off than MPs, having minimal employment rights, among them

scientific researchers in universities. This is the way "modern employers" operate, I am afraid, so why should MPs be made a special case?

Yours faithfully. S. T. DOBBS (Research biochemist, Leicester University, 1988-92), 3 Warwick Close, Market Harborough, Leicestershire. May 6.

Where credit's due

From Mr Brian Kyle

Sir, It seems I wait in vain for the Prime Minister to thank Baroness Thatcher for reforming the Labour

I remain, Sir. Your obedient servant, F, B. KYLE, Clifton House, Great Clifton, Workington, Cumbria. May 9.

Out of the darkness

From Mr Charles E. Brewin

Sir, Now that 18 years of Tory rule have ended, perhaps you should consider changing the announcement of the times of sunrise and sunset, currently the Hours of Darkness, to the Hours of Daylight, which has a more positive flavour.

Yours faithfully, C. E. BREWIN. Vienes des Barreaux. St Nazaire, 47410 Lauzun, France May 7.

Weekend Money letters, page 38

No limits to the future of science

From Mr Tore Boeckmann

Sir. In his review of John Horgan's book The End of Science (Mind and Matter, May 5), Nigel Hawkes ob-serves that most great discoveries of modern science were made before the advent of state sponsorship, even though more scientists are now spending more money on research than ever. As a "plausible explanation" of this, he proposes the notion that there is nothing significant left to discover.

The true explanation, however, is contained in the problem. The breathtaking advances of modern science occurred at a time when scientific inquiry was free and independent. Progress slowed to a paltry trickle only when the State seized control of the funding of the field. Today, the scientist who rises to the top is not the one who excels in looking at reality with a fresh and objective glance, but the one most adept at reading the minds of bureaucrats and most

pliable in bending to their wishes. When science is released from the shackles of state control, it will once more shoot forward at unhampered

Yours faithfully. TORE BOECKMANN. Torvgaten 1, 8005 Bodoe, Norway. May 6.

From Professor Ian Fells, FEng, FRSE

Sir, The suggestion that science might be nearing a "final frontier" is understandable journalistic speculation, but the onward progress of science is an altogether more subtle, if fitful, business. In the 1930s, once the neutron had been discovered, to go with the electron and the proton found earlier. these three fundamental particles were thought to be all that was needed to explain the physics of matter.

Earlier, at the turn of the century, Newton's laws of motion were all that was needed to explain the movements of the planets, as well as terrestrial mechanics. In both cases success was followed by the discovery of new, more sophisticated theories which seemed to reveal hitherto unexpected layers of complexity.

Now we have relativity, superstrings -- and quarks, which would seem to have an unanticipated inner

Could it be that the laws of physics

vent employers from discriminating against people with psychiatric as well as physical, disabilities ("Mentally ill in US get job protection". May I).

employers with more than 20 staff have been under similar, if narrower, obligations (under the Disability Discrimination Act 1995). It is now illegal to refuse someone a job just because they have, or have had, a disability (physical or mental), and employers have to provide adjustments where necessary and reasonable. These include the mental health equivalents of wheelchair access, for instance, a quiet space to work or flexible hours. Both British and American law make it clear that such protection only applies if the person is

qualified to do the job. The British law unfairly excludes

From Ms Deborah Maccoby

Sir, Mrs Denise Helps (letter, May 7. the only domestic animals permitted owners" and would like to see more supervision and restriction of their

his book Catwatching that the cat has side of its nature, part of the wildlife

Yours faithfully, DEBORAH MACCOBY, Airedale, Sach Road, Clapton, E5. May 9.

May 8.

'New' names From Mr W. J. R. Gardner

Sir, Your report today, "Why it's Ace to call your son Gobnat", classifies some parents as illiterate for the use of certain given names for their children. I offer no comment on two of these, but have some difficulty with "Lyra" being put in this cat-

Not only is this a small constellation lying near Cygnus and Draco which contains the star Vega, but it was also good enough to be used as the name of four British warships. I hope the descendants of the Board of Admiralty members who approved these namings can forgive such an implied calumny.

Yours sincerely. JOCK GARDNER. 21 Milton Grove, Lock's Heath. Southampton, Hampshire. May 9.

down and see that physicists, perhaps the most arrogant of scientists, are getting close to the truth and so intervene, changing and complicating the rules to keep the physicists on their toes and stop them sinking into

I call it the Principle of Divine Intervention. For those who do not like the idea of deus ex machina it could be explained in terms of thermodynamics, perhaps as a more sophisticated form of entropy, with complexity tending to increase with time.

complacency?

change with time? Does the Lord look

Yours faithfully. IAN FELLS. Merz Court University of Newcastle, Newcastle upon Tyne, NEI 7RU.

From Professor Emeritus S. John Pirt

Sir, The suggestion by Mr Horgan that scientific knowledge is reaching its limits is based on the narrow view that advances in cosmology and subatomic physics are the main criteria. This strikes me as arrogant and shows a reluctance to admit that the limelight has now focused on biological science.

From my half-century of experience in microbiological research, I am amazed by the magnitude of the advances in biology, particularly at the molecular level. These advances are opening up vast new frontiers for research. Also, unlike cosmology and the superstring theory, biological advances are having an immediate impact on our lives.

Scientific ignorance has recently precipitated a major political crisis. namely the failure to discover the cause of BSE disease in cattle. The theory ultimately validated will be revolutionary and will have immense implications for healthcare.

If we listen to the siren voices of those who say that the age of great scientific discoveries is over, then our politicians will probably tell us that we can cut back on scientific research. To do so would generate more political disasters, of BSE - or even greater - proportions.

many disabled people from its defi-

nitions, but it could begin to put a stop

to some of the present waste of talents

and lives. At least 85 per cent of British

people of working age with significant

mental health problems are out of

work, though most could work if

given the chance. Those who have

fully recovered are routinely refused

We hope that a Government com-

mitted to opening up work opportuni-

ties will make a significant dent in the

appalling unemployment rates for

disabled people by strengthening

disability discrimination law and

providing help for disabled people

with getting and keeping work. This

must include those who are locked out

of the workforce by the false view that

people with mental health problems

Sir, Each day approximately 200,000

birds and just over one-third of a

million small mammals die in the UK

in the jaws and claws of cats.

according to an article in the March

issue of BBCWildlife magazine. Their

deaths will not be quick. By compari-

son, the killing of wildlife by human

shooters and hunters, though deplor-

Cat owners often express regret, but

state that the carnage caused by their

pets must be accepted as part of nature. This is clearly absurd. The

cats are not part of the balance of the

natural world in this country, and are

not something with which the genuine wildlife should have to contend. They

have been imposed on nature by

able, pales into insignificance.

work.

Yours faithfully, S. JOHN PIRT, 50 Chartfield Avenue, SW15.

Mental health law

From the National Director of Mind

Sir, The Americans are right to pre-

Since December 1996 British

From Mr Roger Connell

Mind, 15-19 Broadway, E15.

are incapable of working.

Yours faithfully.

JUDI CLEMENTS,

National Director.

Too many cats

etc) complains that "cats appear to be to stray at will on public land and private property other than that of their freedom to roam.

Desmond Morris demonstrates in never become as domesticated and obedient as the dog and is still, in one which Mrs Helps claims it threatens. Restriction of cats' movements would therefore show a cruel lack of respect for their unique character and what Morris calls their "ancient contract" with human beings.

22 Pigeon Farm Road. Stokenchurch, Buckinghamshire,

David Helfgott

ROGER CONNELL

human beings.

Yours sincerely

From Mrs Ann V. Schlachter

Sir, What a shame the critics slated the wonderful concerts by pianist David Helfgott (report, May 6; review. May 7]. Why was it wrong to applaud between movements? He may not play the music perfectly but he plays it with total enthusiasm and because he loves and enjoys playing.

Mr Helfgott does not appear to me to be exploited because of his illness. People are going to his concerts because they admire him and love music. Shine has done for Rachmaninov what Amadeus did for Mozart. They may not be conventional presentations of the composers' work, but they certainly bring it to the attention of people who would not normally be interested in classical music.

Yours faithfully. ANN V. SCHLACHTER, 32 Kidbrooke Grove, SE3. May 6.

First steps in the war on tobacco

From Sir Donald Acheson

Sir, All who have the health of the nation at heart will have been glad to see (reports, May 8, 9) that the new Government intends to ban tobacco advertising as a matter of urgency. Sadly, however, this will accomplish comparatively little unless sponsorship is also tackled.

By far the greater part of the huge sum invested by the tobacco industry in the promotion of smoking now goes into the sponsorship of activities such as sport, which are particularly appealing to young people

Smoking shortens the lives of at least one in four of those who take it up and incapacitates many more. Yours etc.

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DONALD ACHESON (Chair), International Centre for Health and Society, University College London, 1-19 Torrington Place, WCI. May 9.

British Library fees

From Mr Vincent Brome

Sir. Clearly it was not the librarians who were pressing the British Library to introduce charges for the use of its wonderful reading room (report. April 30). It was the lare Conservative Government, Now Tony Blair or the new Heritage Secretary has a splendid opportunity to defend the prin-ciple of free access to books and

information. In fact there is no free access. The library's funds are provided out of redistributed general tax, which includes the taxes of readers. Moreover the books in the main reading room are provided free of charge by publishers, many of whom resent such generosity being converted to

commercial purposes. If the library were to discriminate between those organisations which employ research workers on a paid, long-term basis and individual scholars and writers, excluding the latter from the punitive higher charges, it would avoid choking off a great deal of individual creative work, some of which has made the library famous. Bernard Shaw believed that the British Library was the only successful socialist democracy in the world which treated readers equally. was paid for out of redistributed tax and run on non-profit-making prin-

It would be a wonderful gesture for the new Heritage Secretary to increase the library's grant to the point where the sordid fumbling for fees from readers would become unnecessary. The sum is negligible: the principle profound.

Yours sincerely, VINCENT BROME (Member, British Library Advisory Committee, 1975-82). 45 Great Ormond Street, WCl. May 2.

From Dr Anselm Kuhn

Sir, Long may the intellectually curious have free admission to the British Library - say up to five days a year. But for those who rely heavily on it, or make a living from its use, is it so wrong to suggest a contribution?

Yours faithfully. ANSELM KUHN (Director), Finishing Publications Ltd. PO Box 70, 105 Whimey Drive. Stevenage, Hertfordshire. May 2.

All at sea

From Mr David Wray

Sir. Captain Cook's magnificent feat in navigating across the globe was indeed brought home by your photograph today. Despite modern satellite navigation aids and global positioning systems, your photographer was in fact in Scarborough, not Whithy as the caption suggests. The ancient mariner would be

revolving in his grave. Yours sincerely. DAVID WRAY, 42 Woodlands Avenue. New Malden, Surrey,

Spoils of war

May 9.

From Mrs P. C. C. Trousdell

Sir, I am in sympathy with Mr Peter Wade (letter, May 8) regarding military pedants.

Things have reached such a state in our house that whenever any sort of military drama is shown I insist that my husband has the telephone beside him so that he can ring the BBC or ITV and complain directly about incorrect insignia, rifles-yet-to-beinvented-in-1914, etc, rather than educate me.

I should like to take this opportunity to explain to news producers that the term "Army green goddesses" is incorrect. My husband regularly informs our radio set that they belong to the Home Office, but nobody seems to be listening.

Yours faithfully. SALLY TROUSDELL, 13 The Knoll, Beckenham, Kent. May 8.

> Letters for publication may be faxed to 0171-782 5046.



COURT CIRCULAR

BUCKINGHAM PALACE May 9: The Queen and The Duke of Edinburgh arrived at Cogan Station this morning and were received by Her Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant of Mid Glamorgan (Mr Murray

McLaggani Her Majesty, with His Royal Highness, drove to the Garden of Remembrance. Aberlan, and planted

The Queen and The Duke of Edinburgh were received at the Garden by the Secretary of State for Wales (the Rt Hon Ronald Davies, MP), the Chairman of the Aberfan Memorial Committee (Mr Clift Minetti and the Mayor of Merthyr Tydfil (Councillor William Smith).

Tydfil (Councillor William Smith).
Her Majesty and His Royal Highness afterwards visited Halla Euro Enterprise Limited. Merthyr Tydfil, and were received by the Vice Chairman (Mr K.H. Kang).
The Queen and The Duke of Edinburgh toured the factory and watched a presentation of Korean and Welsh culture.

Later Her Majesty and His Royal Highness amended a Lumchen at the

Laier Her Majesty and His Royal Highness attended a Luncheon at the Royal Mint, Uantrisant, and were received by the Deputy Master (Mr Roger Holmes) and the Mayor of Rhondda Cynon Taff County Bor-ough Council (Councillor Russell Roberts).

Roberts).

After Luncheon The Queen and The Duke of Edinburgh toured the Proof Coin Unit, where Her Majesty and His Royal Highness struck the first Golden Wedding crown, and the Coin Press Room, where The Queen and The Duke of Edinburgh unsubded. and The Duke of Edinburgh waiched the striking of the new £2 and 50p coins to be introduced later this year. Her Majesty afterwards visited the Welsh Blood Service. Llantrisan, and was received by the Director (Dr Gail Williams).

His Royal Highness visited Llantwit Major Surf Life Saving

May 9: The Duke of York this evening attended a Grand Military Tantoo in aid of the Royal Star and

Her Majesty's Lord-Lieutenaur of South Glamorgan (Captain Norman Lloyd-Edwards RNR).

The Queen, held an Investiture at Buckingham Palace this morning. The Queen and The Duke of

Edinhurgh were represented by Mr James McPherson (Her Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant of Banfishire) at the Memorial Service for Colonel

Thomas Gordon-Duff (formerly Her Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant of Banff-shire) which was held in Botriphnie

Church, Drummuir, this afternoon.

The Prince of Wales, on behalf of

Garter Home at the Yeoval Town Football Ground, Huish Park, Yeoval, and was received by Her Majesty's Lord-Lieuenant of Somerset (Colonel Sir John Wills, Bt). May 9: The Prince Edward, Trustee. The Duke of Edinburgh's Award, this evening attended a Concert and Dinner at the Royal Naval College, Greenwich, London SE10.

ST JAMES'S PALACE

ST JAMES'S PALACE
May 9: The Prince of Wales. Colonelin-Chief. Army Air Corps, this morning received Leutenant-Colonel
Julian Borne upon relinquishing his
appointment as Commanding Officer
2 (Training) Regiment and Licutenant-Colonel Christopher Manning
upon assuming his appointment.
His Royal Highness, Patron, this
afternoon attended a Reception in aid
of the Bronington Trust at Quay
West, Trafford Park, Manchester,
and was received by Her Majesty's
Lord-Lieutenant of Greater
Manchester (Colonel John Timmins).
His Royal Highness, President,
this evening attended The Printe's
Trust's Twenty First Anniversary
Gala at the Opera House,
Manchester.

Historic Churches

Preservation Trust

The Duke of Grafton, KG. Chair

man of Trustees of the Historic Churches Preservation Trust, since 1980 and Trustee since 1957,

stood down as Chairman at the

annual court held on May 8. All

members of the trust send their thanks and good wishes. Lord Nicholas Gordon Lennox has been

The London Institute's Confer-

ments Ceremony took place on Friday, May 9, at the Cochrane

Theatre, Southampton Row. Mr Julian E. Markham, Chairman of

the Court of Governors, conferred honorary fellowships on Mr Anish

Kapoor and Mr John Galliano.

elected Chairman.

The London

Institute

Royal engagements

The Princess Royal, Patron, Gloucestershire and North Avon Federation of Young Farmers' Clubs, will attend the 60th anniversary of the Young Farmers* Clubs Show at the Equine Centre. Hartpury College, near Gloucester. at 3.00. TOMORROW:

Queen Elizabeth The Queen Mother will attend the Combined Cavalry Old Comrades' Association Parade and Service in Hyde Park at ILOS.

Royal Society of . **Portrait Painters**

Prince Michael of Kent presented the Awards at the opening of the Annual Exhibition of the Royal Society of Portrait Painters held at the Mall Galleries on Wednesday. The Carroll Award for Young Portrait Painters and Silver Medal were won by Mr Francis Terry. The Ondaate Prize for Portraiture and the Gold Medal were won by

Mr Thom Winterburn.

University news

Cambridge Selwyn College Elected into a Fellowship and appointed as Bursar from October
1: Sarah Virginia Brinton

Service dinners

Ist The Queen's Dragoon Guards Major-General R.W. Ward. Colonel of the 1st The Queen's Dragoon Guards, presided at the annual regimental dinner held last night at the Cavalry and Guards Club. The Royal Irish Regiment Colonel R.G. Rowe, Colonel of The Royal Irish Regiment, presided at a Colonel-in-Chief's Dining Club

dinner held last night in Ballymena. The Royal Regiment of Fusiliers Colonel R.L. Cariss. Deputy Colonel of the Royal Regiment of Fusiliers for Warwickshire, presided at a dinner night held last

night at the Council House, The Middlesex Regiment (DCO) Major-General A.N. Carlier was

the principal guest at the annual Officers' Club dinner of the Middlesex Regiment (DCO) held last night at the Army & Navy Club, Brigadier B.A.M. Pielow

Air Chief, Marshal Sir William Wratten, Air Officer Commanding-in-Chief. Strike Command. was the speaker at a dinner held last night at RAF High Wycombe to mark the retirement of Air Vice-Marshal T.B. Sherrington, Group Captain A.T.Ford presided. No 7644 (VR) PR Squadron.

RAAF Wing Commander Alex Dickson, former Officer Commanding 7644 Flight, was the principal speaker and was dined out at a dinner held last night at RAF Northolt to mark the inauguration of No 7644 (VR) Public Relations Squadron, Royal Auxiliary Air Force. Wing Com-mander Gordon Ducker, Officer Commanding of the Squadron, presided. Air Commodore Gordon McRobbie. Director of Public Relations, and Group Captain Peter Barren. Deputy Controller of Re-serve Forces, were among those

Malvern Spring Gardening Show

Ferny oasis offers a splash of colour

By Alan Toogood, HORTICULTURAL CORRESPONDENT

THE Lyn Downes Award for the best floral exhibit at the Malvern Spring Gardening Show has been won by Rickard's Hardy Ferns, of Tenbury Wells, Hereford and Worcester. A fresh green oasis amid a kaleidoscope of flowering plants, it includes large tree ferns, but the most unusual fern must be Woodwardia

the most unigentation with red foliage.

The show, which opened yesterday, spans spring and summer, with tulips vying for attention with sweet peas, delphiniums, fuchsias and carnations. Several new plants are making their debut, including a cactus with apricot coloured flowers. Aylostero "Apricot Ice". Raised and showed by Southfield Nurseries, of Bourne, Lincolnshire, it is densely covered with soft white spines and flowers for

A large display of currently popular diascias and perennial nemesias, staged by Penhow Nurseries, of Newport, Gwent, includes the new Nemesia "Penhow Pride" raised by the nursery. Like all the other plants in this exhibit, it is superb in patio containers where it will provide a profusion of lilac and white flowers all

Luncheons

The Prime Minister was the host at a luncheon held yesterday at 10

Downing Street in honour of Mr Wim Kok, Prime Minister of The

The Lord Mayor and Lady May-oress of Westminster were the

hosts at a luncheon held yesterday

at City Hall. The Lord Mayor of

London, accompanied by Mr Alderman and Sheriff and Mrs

Clive Martin attended. Among

others present were:
The High Commissioner for India.
Lord Riz, the Hon Lady Goodhart. Sir
Claus Moser. FBA. Sir Cyril Taylor.
the Comtesse de Chambrun. Mr Ian
Glick. QC. Rear-Admiral Anthony
Cooke, Air Vice-Marshai Michael
Dicken. Colonel D E A Tucker.
Lieutenant-Colonel Malcolm Ross,
Mr Patrick Thurley and Miss Nerys
Hughes. Mr and Mrs David Jacobs.
Mr Andrew and Councillor Carolyn
Keen. Mr Robert Bone. Councillor
Roger Bramble. Councillor Melvyn
Capian, Mr Kevin Taylor and Miss
Trisha Stewart.

Turners' Company

The following have been elected

officers of the Turners' Company

Warden, Mr C.P.J. Field; Renter

Warden, Mr N.G. Woodwark.

for the ensuing year:

others present were:

summer. The exhibit consists of large and mature plants which are not often seen at

Webs of Wychbold, Hereford and Worcester, has launched what is believed to be the first variegated sunrose. Cistus "Candy Stripe" is a small, evergreen shrub with light yellow and green variegated foliage and pink roso-like

Pershore College of Horticulture, of Pershore, Hereford and Worcester, is showing a distinc-tive new double-flowered light blue columnine. Aquilegia "Stoulton Blue", named after the village where it originated, freely produces its bell-shaped flowers in May and June. Choice and unusual plants are to be found among the several exhibits of woodland garden

plants. Waithman Nurseries, of Silverdale, pants, wantiman Nurseries, or suvertual, Lancashire, judged best floral exhibitor new to the show, the award sponsored by Amateur Gardening, has staged bold drifts of Meconopsis sheldonii, or Himalyan Blue Poppies in a carpet of fresh green ferms. The Paradise Centre, of Lamarsh, Suffolk, is beautiful for the first time a carpe weekling for the first time a carpe weekling. showing for the first time a scarce wood lily,

Weekend birthdays

Sir Denis Thatcher

is 82 today.

Electronics, 71; Professor Antony

Hewish, FRS, radio astronomer, 73; Mr Justice Hollis, 70; Sir

Robert Hunt, former chairman,

Dowty Group, 79; Brigadier Joan Moriarty, former matron-in-chiel

and director, Army Nursing Services, 74; Mr John Parrott, snooker

player, 33: Mr Jeremy Paxman,

broadcaster, 47; Sir Ian Percival, QC, and former MP, 76; Mr Ian

Redpath, cricketer, So; Miss Natasha Richardson, actress, 34; Mr Mike Sleman, rugby player, 46; the Very Rev Dr Stephen

Smalley, Dean of Chester, 66: Miss

Judith Weir, composer, 43; the

Hon Montague Woodhouse

Greek resistance organiser, 80.

TODAY: Mr W.F.W. Bischoff.

chairman. Schroders, 56; Bono, singer, 37; Mr William Cash. MP.

man, Prudential Corporation, 68; Major-General Peter Davies,

Director-General, RSPCA, 59; the Marquess of Downshire, 68; Mr

Ionathan Edwards, athlete, 31;

Major-General Edward Fursdon,

defence consultant, 72; Sir Edward

Gardner, QC, former MP, 85; Mr Christopher Gent, chief executive,

Vodafone Group, 49: Lord Justice Kelly, 77: Mr Justice Laws, 52: Miss Maureen Lipman, actress, 51: Sir William Lithgow, indus-

trialist, 63: Lieutenant-General Sir

Anthony Mullens, 61; Lord Mustill, 66; Sir David Orr, former

chairman, Unilever, 75; Sir Angus

Paton, civil engineer, 92; Mr Bruce Raymond, former jockey, 54; the

Earl of Rothes, 65; Mr Michael

Shea, former press secretary to the Queen. 59; Lord Smith, 83; the

Barbara Taylor Bradford, author,

64; Sir Duncan Watson, former

president, World Blind Union, 71.

TOMORROW: Vice-Admiral Sir

Edward Anson, 68; Sir Edgar Beck, former president, John Mowlem and Company, 86; Lady

Rachel Billington, writer, 55; Sir Rhodes Boyson, former MP, 72;

Miss Beryl Bryden, jazz singer, 77; Professor M.J. Hamlin, former

Dundee University, 67; Sir Ernest Harrison, chairman, Racal

Trillium sulcatum, with dark marcon three-

petal flowers. Several exhibitors are featuring forgioves. and among the more unusual ones is Digitalis purpured, "Giant Spotted" from Hardy's Cot-tage Garden Plants, of Whitchurch, Hamp-shire. The extra large, pastel coloured flowers are boldly spotted with crimson in the throat. The Botanic Nursery of Atworth, Wiltshire, is showing an unusual apricot-coloured forglove.

"Glory of Roundway".

Among the several exhibits of pelargoniums, part of the National Collection is being shown by Fibrex Nurseries, of Pelsworth, Warwick-shire. It features regal pelargoniums, trained as standards, a revival of an old technique which is

standards, a revival of an old technique within is just as easy as producing standard fuschias, provided old cultivars, such as "Mahogany" and "Jungle Night" are used.

The show, jointly organised by the Royal Horticultural Society and the Three Counties Agricultural Society and held at the Three Counties showground, Malvern, Hereford and Wortester, is open today from 9am-6pm and tomorrow 9am-5pm.

Lieutenancy of Cornwall

The following have been appointed Deputy Lieutenants of Cornwall: General Sir Richard Brooking

The Sternberg Centre for Judaism

Sir John Templeton presented the Templeton UK institutional Award to The Sternberg Centre for Judaism and to the Rev Steve Chalke of the Oasis Trust at the Centre yesterday. Sir Sigmund Sternberg presided and Rabbi. Tony Bayfield also spoke.

Appointments

Mr Anthony Richard Lawrence Mrs Deborah Elizabeth Taylor and Miss Elisabeth Arlon Jones to be full-time Immigation Adjudi-cators, designated as Special Adjudicators. Mr Lawrence and Miss Arlon-Jones will sit in sit in Manchester.

Royal Marines Museum

Lieutenant-General Sir Henry Beverley to be chairman of the Board of Trustees of the Royal Marines Museum. Mr James R. Kearoy to be a

Forthcoming marriages

and Miss E. Tuck

The engagement is announced between Hugh, eldest son of Brigadier and Mrs W.M.R. Addison, of Abingdon, Oxfordshire, and Ellen, youngest daughter of Colonel and Mrs F.M.K. Tuck, of Aberdeenshire.

Mr C.E.S. Cherry and Miss K.V. Haslett

The engagement is announced between Colin, son of Mr Roger Cherry, of Sydney, Australia, and Mrs Benjamin Wrey, of Holland Park, London, and Kate, younger daughter of Mr and Mrs Richard Haslett, of Teddington, Middlesex.

Mr A.M. Forbes and Frankin A-K. New The engagement is announced between Angus, son of Mr and Mrs Lachlan Forbes, of Turi, Kenya, and Scotland, and Anne-

Kathrin, daughter of Herr and Frau Jochen Neumann, of Berlin. Germany. Mr J. Khershid and Miss L.A. Hassall

The engagement is announced between Jawdar (Dodie), second son of Mr and Mrs Nawad

Khurshid, of Pease Pottage, West Sussex, and Lydia, younger daughter of Mr and Mrs John Hassall, of Nantwich, Cheshire, Mr T.R. Lorimer and Miss S.J. Moscow

The engagement is announced between Timothy, son of Mr and Mrs Nick Lorimer, of Clapham London, and Susan, daughter of Sevenoaks, Kent

Mr T.S. Dennen and Mrs C.L. Zygadlo The engagement is announced between Timothy Simon, elder son of Miss Pamela Suring, of Fonthull Gifford, Wiltshire, and Mr Robert Crewdson, of Hampton, Middlesex, and Caroline Louise, daughter

of Mr and Mrs Michael Harrison, of East Molesey, Surrey. Mr D. Marshall and Miss M.B. Fairbrother

The engagement is announced between Daren, eldest son of MrT. Marshall and of Mrs J. Wardale, of Welling, Kent, and Michelle Burton, eldest daughter of Mr and Mrs I. Fairbrother, of Sanderstead, Croydon, Surrey.

Mr D.G. Ritchie and Miss M.S. Croft and Miss M.S. Croft
The engagement is announced
between Douglas, younger son of
Mr Guy Ritchie, of Cape Town,
and Mrs Theodora Ritchie, of
Durban, South Africa, and Marion, youngest daughter of Mr and
Mrs Jonathan Croft, of Cheam,

Marriage

Mr N.P. Harwood-Page and Miss C.R. Davies
The marriage took place on Friday, May 2, 1997, between Mr
Nicholas Peter Harwood-Page, eldest son of Mrs J. Cook, of Liskeard, Cornwall, and Miss Caroline Ruth Davies, only daughter of Dr and Mrs L Davies, of Mr and Mrs Harwood-Page will live in Tetbury. Gloucestershire.

Anniversaries

TODAY BIRTHS: Sir Thomas Lipton, grocer, yachisman and philan-thropist, Glasgow, 1890; Fred Astaire, dancer and actor, Ornaha. Nebraska 1889.

DEATHS: George Vancouver, explorer, Richmond, Surrey, 1798; Paul Revere, American patriot, Boston, Massachusetts, 1818; Thomas Jonathan (Stonewall) Jackson, Confederate general in the American Civil War, Chancel Insville, Virginia, 1863; Sir-Henry Stanley, explorer, London, 1904; Joan Crawford, actress, New York, 1977; J.B. Morton (Beachcomber), satirist and historian, Worthing,

Dr Ivy Williams became the first woman to be called to the English

Winston Churchill replaced Nev-ille Chamberlain as Prime Min-

BIKTHS: trving Berlin, composer. Teminn, Russia, 1888; Martha Graham, dancer, Allegheny, Pennsylvania, 1894; Salvador Dali, painter, Figueras, Spain, 1904. DEATHS: William Pitt the Elder, lst Earl of Chatham, Prime Min-ister 1756-61 and 1766-68, Hayes, Kent, 1778; Sir John Herschel, astronomer, Collingwood, Kent, 1871; Juan Gris, Cubist, Boulogne,

TOMORROW

1927: Bob Marley, singer, Miami, 1981: FLAR (Kim) Philby, British double agent, Moscow, 1988. The original Stamese twins. Chang and Eng, were born of Chinese parents in Siam, 1811. Siam changed its name to Thai-

Forty spectators were killed and 150 injured when fire broke out at Bradford City football ground,

Church services tomorrow

ST ANDREWS CATHEDRAL ABERDEEN: 8 HC: 10.15 S Euch In G. The Provost: 6.30 ES. Murrill in E. ARMAGH CATHEDRAL: 10 HC; 11 M. The Lord ascendeth up on high (Greher): 3.15 GFS Festival Service.

Festival Service.
BELFAST CATHEDRAL: 10 HC: 11'S Euch.
Darke in F. O clap your bands (Gibbons), 3.30
Choral E, Responses (Neary), Murrilli in E.
BIRMINGHAM CATHEDRAL: 9 MP: 9.15 HC;
11 Choral Euch, Darke in F. Lift up your heads
(Gibbons), Rev Canon G O'Nelli: 4 Choral E.
Responses (Sanders).
BEACKBURN CATHEDRAL: 8 HC: 9.15 Choral
M: 10.30 Euch: 4 Choral E.
BRECON CATHEDRAL: 8. 11. Missa Acterna
Christi Monera (Palestrina), Canon A Howells;
3.30 E. Responses (Ayleward). O clap your
hands (Gibbons).

Sill Butters (Falsand, Calind, Calind, Andrews, Sill Butters), Sill E. Responses (Ayleward). O clap your hands (Gibbons).

BRISTOL CATHEDRAL, College Green: 7.40 M: 8 HC: 10 Choral Euch, O nara lux (Fallis), Canon J. Simpson: 3.30 Choral E. Responses (Radcillie), Siunford in C. CANTERBURY CATHEDRAL: 8 HC: 9.30 M: 1] SEuch, O Res gloriae (Byrd), Rev P Brett: 3.15 E. Responses (Ayleward); 6.30 Compiline, Archdeacon of Canterbury, Carliste Cathedral: 10.30 S Euch, Missa Brevis (Palestring). Canon C. Hill: 3 E. Normandy Veterans Service, Zadok the priest (Handel), The Dean.

CHEMSFORD CATHEDRAL: 7.30 MP: 8 HC: 9.30 Euch: 11.15 S Euch, Mass in G (Schubert), Canon D Knight; 6 Festival Service, Where thou reignest (Schubert), Rev M Yorke.

CHESTER CATHEDRAL: 7.45 L: 8 HC: 10 Choral Euch, Leighton in D. Canon O Comway: 11.30 Choral M. Responses (Ayleward): 3.30 Choral E. Responses (Ayleward): 6.30 E, Canon W E BOWETS.

Choral E, Responses (Ayleward): 6.30 E, Canon W E BOWETS.
CHICHESTER CATHEDRAL: 8 HC: 10 M; 11 S EUCh: 3-30 E.
CHRIST CHURCH CATHEDRAL Oxford: 8 HC; 10 M. Coll Reg (Howells), Canon Ward; 11.15 S EUCh. Mass; (Struvinsky). The Dean: 6 E. Chichester Service (Walton).
COVENTRY CATHEDRAL: 7.40 MP: 8 C: 10.30 EUCh. Missa Brevis (Britteri), Rev C Kennedy: 3 German Lutherans: 5 Euch & Contignation, Coventry Mass (Inwood). The Bishop of Coventry Mass (Inwood). The Bishop of Coventry (Service), Canon R Coppin: 10 M. Short Service (Byrd). The Precentor: 3.30 E, Bairstow in G: 7 HC.

ELY CATHEDRAL: 8.15 HC: 10.30 S Euch: 3.45 EXETER CATHEDRAL: 8 HC: 9.45. Missa Brevis

Standing. GLOUCESTER CATHEDRAL: 8, 12.15 HC; 10.15 Euch, Missa Papae Marcelli (Palestrina), Canon E James: 3 E, My soul there is a country (Pany). GUILDFORD CATHEDPAL: 8 RC: 9.45 S. Euch, Mass (Stravinsky). Canon Dr M Palmer: 11.15 M, Jubilare in C (Stanford): 6.30 E, St John's Service (Tippett). Service (Tippett).

HEREFORD CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; 10 Choral Euch, The Lord scendeth (Schicht), The Bishop of Masses; 11, 30 M, Sanders in B flat; 3.30 E. Rubbra in A flat, Rev Preb F Rodgers.

LEICESTER CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; 10 M; 10.30 S Euch, Ireland in C, The Bishop of Carlisie; 2, Church Lads and Girls Brigade Service; 4 Choral E, Murrill in E, Christ whose glory fills the skies. The Precentor. Choral E. Murfil in E. Christ whose glory fills the skies. The Precentor.

LICHFIELD CATHEDRAL: 8 HC: 10.30 S Euch. Jackson in G. The Chancellor's Vicar: 3.30 E. Responses (Byrd), Brewer in D. LINCOLN CATHEDRAL: 7.45 L: 8, 12.30 HC: 9.30 S Euch, Messe Solennelle (Langiais), The Chancellor: 1:15 M. Te Deurn in F (Ireland); 3.45 E. Howells in G. Canon D Askew. LIVERPOOL CATHEDRAL: 10.30 Euch: 3 Choral E: 4 HC.

MANCHESTER CATHEDRAL: 8.45 M: 9 Euch; 10.30 S Euch. Non vos relinquam (Byrd), Canon A Radcliffe: 3 Church Lads' and Church Girls' Brigade Service: 6.30 E. Responses (Avieward), Teach me O Lord (Attwood), Canon A Radcliffe. 3 CATHEDRAL: 8, 9.30, Canon P Strange. Strange.

NEWPORT CATHEDRAL: 10.30 M, Jubilize in A (Gray), Achieved is the giorious work (Flaydn): 6.30 E. Lift up your heads (Mathias).

PTIERBOROUGH CATHEDRAL: 9.30 M, Noble in 8 minor: 10.30 Euch, Ireland in C. The Precentor: 3.50 E, Darke in F, O clap your hands (Vaughan Williams). (Vaughan Williams).

RIPON CATHEDRAL: 8, 12.30 Euch: 9.30

Parish Euch. Missa, O quam gioriosum est regnum (Victoria), Rev D Paton Williams: 11.30

M. Yaughan Williams in G: 3 Baptism: 5.30 E.

God is gone up [Finzi]. Rev D Moriet. ROCHESTER CATHEDRAL'S HC: 9.30 S Euch, Ave verum Mozari, Canon E Turner, 12 RUMCC Mayor's Dedication Service, Te Deum (Howells), The Deam 3.15 E. Howelsi, The Dean; 3.15 E.

SALISBURY CATHEDRAL; 8 HC. Rev A Philip:
10 Euch, Responses (Ferguson), Rev N Bezzer;
11.30 M. Responses (Shephard), Canon J
Osborne; 8 E. Responses (Shephard),
SHEFFELID CATHEDRAL; 8 HC. 10 MP; 10.30
S. Euch; 2.30 HMS Sheffield Service; 4.30
Confirmation; 6.30 E. Canon T Page.

SOUTHWARE CATHEDRAL: 9 Euch, Canon H
CURISTIAN SCIENCE CHURCH, Caroon St.
SI MARGARETS, Westminster, SWI: 10 M, Rev
Cunlifie: 11 Choral E, Messe salennelle
Wi: 11 Sunday School.
Wi: 11 Sunday School.
Crown COURT CHURCH OF SCOTIAND.
Captain P Johnson; 11.15 Aboy Euch, Rev C TRURO CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; 9 M; 10 S Epch.
Coll Reg (Howels), Canon M Catey; 6 E,
Responses (Stopford), The Chancellor. WAREFIELD CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; 9.15 Parish C; 11 S Euch; 6.30 Choral R. WELLS CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; 9.45 5 Euch, Missa Johannes de Deo (Haydn), Rev G Farran: 11.30 M, Stanford in C; 3 E, Stanford in G, Preb B Bowman-Eadle; 6.30 Christian Ald Service. WESTMINSTER ABBET: 8 HC. 10 M. Responses (Gibbons/Barnard), Pestval Te Deum in E. Canon D Gray; 1.1.5 Euch, Mass In drur parts (Byrd), Non vos relinquam orphanos (Byrd), Libera nos (Sheppard), Canon C Semper 7 E. Dyson in D. O ciag your hands (Gibbons, Rey Canon S Bioxam-Rose; 6.30 ES, Canon A Hanssel Haivey.

WINCRESTER CATHEDRAL: 10.30 M, Jubilate in B flat (Stanford), Responses (Lloyd), The Bishop of Southampton; 11.30 Euch, Missabrevis (Falestrinat: 3.30 E, Stanford in A, Responses (Lloyd). AESPOINES (LIOYOL).
WORCESTER CATHEDRAL: 9.30 Euch, Rev Dr
M Donsel: 11 S Euch, Saive Regina (Lizzi, The
Archdeacon: 4 E. Responses (Sanderst; 6.30 Congregational Euch, Three part Mass (Byrd).
The Precentor. TORK MONSTER: 8, 8.45 HC; 10 S Buch, Durke in F, Caton G Reid: 11.30 M. Stanford in A: 4 E, Murtill in E. Canon L Stanbridge.

ST ALBANS CATHEDRAL, Heritordshire! 8 HC; 9.30 Euch, Service (Ruther), Canon H Andrew; 11 S Euch, Mass in E. flar (Rheinberger); 6.30 E. Responses (Smith), The Dean. ST ASAPH CATHEDRAL, Cloved: 8 HC; II Choral M. Ascendir Deuts (Pfillips), Rev R Griffiths; 3.30 EP. ST MACHAR'S CATHEDRAL, Old Aberdeen: 11, 6, Rey R Frazer. 6. Rev R FRZEE.

5. FAULTS CATHEDRAL London: 8 HC; 8.45 M;

5. F PAULTS CATHEDRAL London: 8 HC; 8.45 M;

5. J S Exch. Misse Ascendo ad Patrem
(Palestrina), Canon M Sawari; 3.15 E. The
Second Service (Leighton), Rev P Boardman.

RUSSIAN ORTHODOX CATHEDRAL
Smitsmore Gardens, London, 5W7: 10.30

Divjoe Liturgy, Kievan and traditional
polyphony. polyphory.

ALLSOULS, Langham Place, WI: 11, Rev R Trist;
6:30, Mr G Denigls.

ESE ASSUMPTION, Warwick Street, WI: 11
Mista brevis (Palestrina), Ascendit Deus(Phillips), Psallite Domino (Byrd),
CHELSEA OLD CHURCH, SWI: 8, 12.15 HC; 10
Children's Service: 11 M, God is gone up (Finzi),
Mr J Waterston; 6 E, Rev D Bean.

FARM STREET, WI: 8, 9.30, 12.30, 4.15, 6.15 IM; I I HM.

BOLY TRINITY BROMPTON, Brompton Road.

SWT: 9-ASE HC. Rev S MILLS: I I MS, Rev S

Downham: 5, 7.30 Informal Service. The

Bishop of Williesden.

THE ORATORY, Brumptor Road, SWT: 7, 8, 9,

10, 11 M. Misse late Christus of astro

Falescring!, Ascendens, Christus (Victoria),

12.30, 4.30, 7, M; 3.30 V a B, Non vos relinquism

orphanos (Byrd). 12.30, 4.30, 7 Mr 3.30 V & B. NOO WAS RELINGUISTS. CEPURALES (PAPER).

ARMENIAN APOSTOLIC. CHURCE: Negrae ARMENIAN ARMENIAN. CHURCE: SET AS HE CHURCE: CHURCE: CHURCE: SET AS HE CHURCE: CHURCE: SET AS HE CHURCE: CHURCE: ARMENIAN AND ST AGNIES (Lutherand, Cresham St. ECZ.: 11 Choral Bach. Rev F Schmiege. ST ANNEA AND ST AGNIES (Lutherand, Cresham St. ECZ.: 11 Choral Bach. Rev F Schmiege. ST RANTHOLOMEN THE GREAT, SMITHREID CHURCE: ST RANTHOLOMEN THE GREAT, SMITHREID COMMENDIAN AS (Laverned, Rev M Thompson. ST BRIGE'S. Fleet Street. ECA: 11 Choral M & Euch. Jubilize (Sumsion ST BRIGE'S Series). Justine 10 C. Choral Barnes Robertson: 6.30 Ch. E. Arrake. Phou Wintry Series (Sach.) Visi Galilizei (Govern). Canon I Ognes. ST CLEMENT DANES: II Choral M. Boyce in C. My beloved spake (Purcell), Rev R Noble; 12.30 HC, BCP.

Happy 1st Anniversary.

I look forward to many

I love you.

IAN

BOWLES - Reuben. Rideman 12th London Regiment, died at Arras 11th May 1917. Proudly remembered by your family.

The second secon

SATURDAY

TEL: 0171 481 4000 FAX: 0171 782 7799

SUNDAY

Sender, 3 E. Caroni S Bloram-Rose: 6,30 ES, Bey Dr A Harvey. ST MARTIN-IN-THE-FIELDS, WC2: 8 HC. 9.45 Each, The Vicent; 11,30 Visitors to London, Rev C Herbert, 2,45 Chinese Service, Rev G Lee; S Choral E: 6,30 ES. Enoral B: 6.30 BS.

ST MARY ABBOTS CHURCE, Kensington W6:
9.30 Parks Both, The Vitar: 11.15 Choral M.
Bishop M Baughen; 6.30 B. Rev F Gelli.

ST MARY'S, Bourne Street, SW1:9.10, 7.30 LM,
11 Thd, Missa Astenderis Christis (Victorial, Fr.
S. Young, 6 SE, Procession & Benediction, Fr. N.
Spicer. Spicer.
ST MART-THE-VIRGIN, Primrose Hill: 8 HC;
1030 Spoch. Missa core nanc benedicine
(Lastes). O ctap your hands (Gibbons), Rev Lastes. Francis: Prompt's EP.

ST MARYLEBONE, Marylebone Road, W. 8

HC, 11 Ch Euch, Mass in C Schubert, Res P.

Wells.

ST Michael's. Cornholl. ECS: Choral M.
Responses Leighbort, O. Clap your hands

(Yangkan Williams, Oswald Clarke.

ST PAUL'S. Wilton Place. SWI: 8, 9, NC. 11 3.

Paul, Missa Sancti Nicolai (Haydri), God is

poine up (Phrail, Ascardic Deuts (Philips), Rev. N.

Nicholds.

ST PRIFER'S. Baton Square, SWI: 8, 15, HC. 18.

Franily Encir. 11-5, Ench, Missa Akcenders

Christia (Victoria), Puga ella giga (Bach), Fri.

Tillye.

ST VIMON TELOTORS, Milner St. 800-2, NC. 12.

ST VIMON TELOTORS, Milner St. 800-2, NC. 12.

TOTAL PROMISER ST. 11-5

ST VIMON TELOTORS, Milner St. 800-2, NC. 12.

TOTAL PROMISER ST. 11-5

ST VIMON TELOTORS, Milner St. 800-2, NC. 12. ST SIMON ZELOTES, Milner St. EW3-8 HC, LF M. Britten in B flat, God is gone up (Finzi), Prepo M. McGowan: 6.30 E. CHAPEL ROYAL St. Issues's Palace 8.30 HC. 11.15 MP. Codys Ascendir Hodie Stanford Rev R Bolton. Rev R Bolton.

GROSVENDOR CHAPEL, South-Andiley Street.

Wi: 8.15 HC; Il S Euch, Miss. Rel. Amiliarie.

albara (Lascod, God is gone up; Plantil, Grand
Chocur in D (collaman), Rev B Lec. GRAPS INN CHAPEL, \$ South Sq., WCIR: 11.157 Divine Service, Rev Dr D Hilborn. THE FRANCE CHERCH. First Street 2.30 HC. 11.15 AU., Repondes (Rose) Street 1.30 HC. The Master. Street 2.30 HC. Master. Street 1.30 HC. The Master 1.30 HC. The Ma

BMDS: 0171 680 6880

ROBERTS - On 2nd May, to Sarah (née jarrett) and Stewart, a daughter, Ella Rosa a sister for Amber.

ROWLES-DAVIES - On 6th May 1997, to Sarah (née Cocks) and Micholas, a son, Charles Meladia

· The second

FAX: 0171 481 9313

USE WILL

CHEAT DEATH

We do, Kidney research seven lives. So do legacios.

MEN MEY

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Roed, Hustingston, Cambridgethire PE18 6XG Telephone 01480 454628 Registered Chiefly No. 252892

RESEARCH FUND

9AM-6PM

9AM-4PM

NATIONAL

POWER TO

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ROTAL RAVAL COLLEGE CHAPEL. Greenwich,
STIG: 1: S Euch (BCP). Ireland in C, I saw the
Lord (Staines), Rev C French.

PERSONAL COLUMN TRADE: 0171 481 1982 PRIVATE: 0171 481 4000 Treat others as you would like those to treat you. If you love only those who love you, what credit is that to you. Lake & 31,32 IN MEMORIAM — ANNOUNCEMENTS BEAUCHAMP - On 30th April
prescriptly whits on holidry,
Charles Fullip, denry loved
and loving husband of the
little lizabeth, father of
little lizabeth, father of
little lizabeth, father of
little very dear husband of
little RYE - On May 2nd at The Portland Hospital, to THE BLIMMENT SOUADMON 1839-1945 - In honour of 1839-1945 - In honour of 1839-1946 - In honour of EX-SERVICES MENTAL WELFARE SOCIETY Jennifor and Manit, a daughter, Sonali, a sister for Arman, BIRTHS BARLIE-HAMM.TON - On May 6th at the Simpson Memorial Meternity Pavilion, to Paula (née Hickman) and Mike, a son, Bruce Chaites Buchman, a brother for Augus. of those who shared the same horrors and survived... their missis shamered. The Ex-Services Mencal Welliam Society cares for one man women from the Services with varying depress of mestal illness in our consultational horrors and vestimate house. A domation now or a legacy for will help those who have given their most preclaus gift after the lesser. STANTON - On May 7th, to Amma (nose Mentgomery) and Richard, a son, Richard Rupert Montgomery (Dicken), a brother for Matter IN MEMORIAM -PRIVATE BULLMAN - On May 7th at The WHILMAN - Ann, loving wife to Cyril and loving mother of Nigel, Chris, Cathy and Penny, peased peacefully away saidanly on 7th May 1997. Funeral Service will take place at 3 pm on Wednesday, 14th May at The Surrey & Sussex Crematorium, Worth, nr. Crawley. Flowers may be sent to Puller & Scott, The Walerjas, Unifield, East Sussex TR22 1AJ. Tel: (01825) 762241. Portland Hospital, to Siobhan (see McMicholas) and Timothy, a son, Charlie, a brother for Johnny. WALKER - On Sunday 4th May 1997, to Simon and Astherine, a son, Cameron James Donald. Grateful thanks to all staff at the Buchanan Hospital, BETTENSON - (Newcastle). In hospital on May 3rd, aged 86 years, Ernest Marsden Bettenson (retired Registrar of the University of Newcastle apon Tyne), mourned by his wife Jean. Funeral Service at West Road Crematorium on Wednesday 14th May at 11 am. No flowers please, but donations if desired may be made towards Cancer Research. A Memorial Service will be arranged later. Enquiries may be made GOODER - On May lst, to Victoria (nee Ewen) and Ban, a son, Rufus, a brother for Isobel and Milo. RUSSELL - Father Alastair, on the May 1997, pescatulty at the Hospital of St John and St Ribrabeth after a short illness. Funnyal 11 am, Transday 15th May at The Church of Our Lady, Lisson Grove, London NWG, Family flowers only. MITCHELL GREEN - Darling Mary-Jean deeply loved and missed by Para; Alexander and Abdrew: **COMBATSTRESS** MOORE - On May 9th 1997, Stater Hildegard Moore, Deaceness of the Community of St Andrew, London, in the 56th year of her profession. Funcial at the Convent of St Mary at the Cross, Friory Fleid Drive, Hale Lake, Edgware, Middlesex HAB 972, on Thursday May 15th 11 am. Dountiums/flowers to above community. GUTHERE - On April 18th 1997, to Bachel (née Pateman) and Roger, a daughter, Alice Margaret, a sister for Elildh. at St Michaers Church, Hallaton, Leicestershire, on May 15th at 3.15 pm. No flowers by request, but donations, if desired, to Papworth Hospital (Transplant Unit), c/o J. Stamp & Sons, Kettering Road, Market Harborough, LEIG BAK. WOODMAN - On April 23rd 1997, to Jenny (née Menn) and John, a son, Angus, a brother for Archie. ANNOUNCEMENTS SCOTT - On May 7th Professor James Alexander Scott, C.B.L., P.R.C.T., M.D., LL.D., aged 65 years. Beloved husband of Maygaret, futher of julim, Earle, and Alexand grandpa of James. Service at % johns Church Empisote, Sheffield, Wednesday May 14th at 1 pas, followed by interment at Rosehill Cemetary Doncaster at 245pm. Flowers may be sent to John Heath & Sons, Funeral Directors, Sheffield. HENDERSON - On 9th May THE SUNDAY TIMES and Micholas, God's gift of a Acea, Marrer Harrorough, Leife SAN,
MEMMEDY - Partick (J.P.R.) on
Wednesday May 7th
suddenly on the golf course.
Very inneh loved husband of
Pata, loving father of Martya
and Lindsay, stepfather of
Neil and Tony Gregor
Macyneger, adored Grandpa
of Alszander, Alice, Charles,
Laura and Isobel, Finneral
Service at Righ Cross
Church, Camberley, 2 pur
Friday May 16th, No flowers,
Donations if desired to
Camberley Colle Trust of
Trassurer, Restance House,
Camberley Golf 3FL
LAIT - Gerald (Gerry) of
Icklefordbury, Hilehin,
Hertfordshire, syddenly on
May 1st. Funsant 5t Mary's
Chorch, Rushden, near
Bantingford at 230 pm on
May 1sth Sadly anissed by
Barry, Maureen, family and
Edenda. THE LEARER/VOCK - On April 18th in Jerusalem, to Deborah Natasha and Cyril, a son, Ido THANKSGIVING later. Enquiries may be made to John Bardgett and Sons, Westgate Road, Newcastle Tek 0191 273 9292. SERVICES . PACHUANI - On 7th May, in hospital Peter Jack, aged 77 years. Hosband of Jame and mother of Roger and Jocalyn. Funeral Service on Wednesday 14th May at St Mary's Church, Bathwick, Bath, at 1 pm. Family Rowers only, please. Donations to St Mary's Church for H. Hooper and Son, tel: (01225) 422040. PRIVATE **DEATHS** Marcessan - On 2nd May 1997 BOWERMAN - On May let. Queenie May (née Humphery) in her 94th year, relict of John Newell Bowerman of Pewsey and formerly of Esignte, Private fameral has taken place. **ADVERTISING** MCREY-Rig. R.G. A Service of Thanksgiving for the life of "Gil" will be held at St Luke's Church, Sydney Street, Chelsan, on Wednesday June 11th at 12 noon. BARHAM - On May 9th, aged 53, pencefully from cancer, borne bravely and always with a smile, Sesam Mary, belowed wife of Jeremy and loving mother of Kate and Matthew. A very special pensen to so many. Funeral Service at All Saluts', Beanchley on May 16th at 2pm. Fatelly Lowers only please, but donations if desired to Hospice in the Weald, c/o Kempsters Funeral Directors, 2-4 Albion Road, Tanbridge Wells, Kent. **OPENING TIMES** PHIT - On May 5th in Lucerne to Lisa (nee Pyatt) and Fraser, a son, Oliver Thomas, Funeral Directors, Sheffield,
SMITH - Carolyn Mary aged 50
years on May 8th at house in
Patrick Brompton, Bedale,
North Yorkshire, Beloved
wise of Doctor Marcus
Smith, loved mosher of Mark,
Timothy and Anna and
stapmother of James and
julian Puneral Service in St.
Fatrick's Church, Patrick
Broispton, on Wednesday
May 14th at 2 ym followed
by interment in the
churchyard. MONDAY & TUESDAY - 9AM-6PM CROWDY - Frederick Henry died spidenty at home on May 7th aged 78 years. Dear husband of Mary, beloved father of June, Martin and Philip, and much loved grandfather. Service at Haycombe Crematerium, 8sth, on May 16th at 3.30pm Family flowers only. Donations to the British Diabetic Association. PERTEL - On 28th April 1997 to Astrid (née Glices) and Charles, a son, Alexander David. CATHRYN WEDNESDAY & THURSDAY 9AM-7PM IN MEMORIAM --

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BRIAN WENHAM

Brian Wenham, Managing Director BBC Radio, 1985-87, and Director of Programme BBC TV, 1983-85, died from a beart attack on May 8 aged 60. He was born on February 7, 1937.

ometimes too sardonicfor his own good; Brian Wenham was one of the ablest figures in British broadcasting. He is credited with transforming the fortunes of BBC2 of which he was controller from 1978 to 1982, by introducing snooker to the small screen, and in the 1970s and 1980s he was fresquently spoken of as a future BBC Director-General. Had promotion within the BBC continued to move at its traditional measured pace, the job would almost certainly have been his. The governors' coup of January 1987 which dislodged Alasdair Milne from the D-G's chair also, nowever. adversely affected Wenham's own prospects.

Although he continued for a

period to run what he persisted in calling "the wireless", the appointment of Michael Checkland as Milne's successor effectively put an end to his BBC ambitions. When Michael Grade was brought back from Hollywood to fill his own old job as director of programmes at Television Centre with what seemed at the time to be the clear reversion to succeed Bill Cotton as unanaging director of BBC

*Television — Wenham recognised that the time had come to resign. He put in to become leremy Isaacs's successor at Channel Four in 1987 and hoped also to be appointed director of the British Film Institute in 1988.

But he was disappointed in both aspirations and the last decade of his life was spent largely as an adviser and consultant on broadcasting, He became a non-executive director of Carlton Television. which took over the London weekday franchise from Thames at the beginning of 1993, and - as one of the more intelligent and articulate spokesmen within the industry — was frequently to be seen and heard at media seminars and conferences. He was also a graceful writer and, as well



as editing, and writing a perceptive essay in, a book called The Third Age of Broadcasting (1982), for some time contributed a fortnightly broadcasting commentary to The Times.

Brian George Wenham

came from no grand background and was educated at the Royal Masonic School. Bushey, and at St John's. College, Oxford, where he took a brilliant first in Modern History. The first seven years of his television life were spent at ITN, where he worked for a period in the parliamentary lobby and was something of a protégé of Alastair Burnet. At the same time he cut his teeth as a print journalist, serving as the London correspondent for the Washington weekly, The New Republic. It was not until 1969, when

he was already 32, that he was

recruited by the BBC to be-come editor of what was then still very much its flagship current affairs programme, Panorama. Such talent-raiding on the part of the corporation from ITV had not invariably worked well in the past but in Wenham's case it proved a triumphant success.

Within two years, at a time of some political turbulence, he was promoted to be head of the BBC TV's current affairs group, a post he was to hold during the reigns of both the Heath and the Wilson Governments for the next seven years. It was, as his predecessor had discovered, a difficult and exposed position, especially when it came to relations with the political parties, but Wenham handled it with great aplomb - no doubt partly because he was a highly political animal himself.

pion and it was when he asked the highly successful controller of BBC2 to become his assistant director-general, with responsibility for all the corporation's journalism, that the fate of the BBC in the 1980s was effectively settled. With uncharacteristic churlishness Wenham dug his toes in and refused to take the job. If he, with his highly developed political antennae, had been here to guard the D-G's back. it is perfectly possible that the various troubles that later developed could have been averted.

Wenham's patron and cham-

In the short term, however, it looked as if Wenham — from his own point of view - had made the right decision. The ill-fated move of Bill Cotton to take charge of the BBC's abortive venture into satellite broadcasting created a vacancy in the post of director of television programmes and the controller of BBC2 was chosen to fill it. This brought him. for the first time, a seat on the BBC's board of management and for a time all seemed set fair for his eventual succession to the BBC's top

If anything, his prospects were enhanced by a piece of special responsibility that he was again given by Milne. He was charged with orchestrating the BBC's response to the Peacock Committee on Fi-nancing the BBC that Margaret Thatcher had set up with a view - most commentators suspected - of getting the corporation in future to fi-

nance itself by advertising. Not only was that danger avoided: the BBC came out with a remarkably clean bill of health - a marked contrast to its treatment at the hands of the Annan Committee of 1977. Within the corporation - and not least on the board of governors - a good deal of the credit for this was rightly accorded to Wenham, who had not only written all the BBC's submissions but had also organised a skilful press campaign designed to make the case against taking advertising.

But in his moment of tri-Wenham was nearer the end of his BBC career than he can have thought. The Milne had always been savage sacking of Alasdair Milne in January 1987 meant that all bets were off in terms of an ordered succession. Aithough Wenham might have been thought to be sitting pretty as managing director of BBC Radio, the appointment of Michael Checkland to succeed Milne had been followed by the bringing in from ourside of an entirely new figure to serve as deputy Director-General and to take both managerial and editorial control of all the corporation's news and current affairs output.

From the moment that John Birt arrived in Broadcasting House an entirely new culture Wenham was probably right to recognise that he was unlikely to have any rewarding or fulfilling place within it. At the age of 50 he resigned with dignity in the summer of 1987 - though there were to remain many who mourned the loss of his exceptional ability and talents in what was to prove a very rough period in the corporation's history. Nothing became Wenham

more than the fortitude with which he endured the disappointments of the last ten years of his life. He remained cheerful and never gave way to repining or recrimination. He was a man of many interests - a great lover of opera and the theatre and was beginning to develop a keen interest in painting. He was a director of Renaissance Films and of English Touring Opera, as well as playing a leading part in the affairs of the Institute of Contemporary

He possessed a host of friends - to most of whom he acted as the central point of contact in a group that in their twenties had been known irreverently as "the playmates". At the same time there was always a sense of detachment about him - perhaps the result of his knowledge that his father had died young of a heart attack and that this had very nearly been paralleled in his own case by his survival from one when he was merely in his mid-thirties.

His family life was always warm and close. He married in 1966 Elizabeth ("Liz") Woolley and she and their two daughters survive him.

ERIC OGDEN



Eric Ogden, Labour MP for Liverpool, West Derby, 1964-81, and Social Democratic Party MP for the same constituency. 1981-83, died from lung cancer on May 5 aged 73. He was born on August 23, 1923.

ERIC OGDEN was a pugnacious ex-miner whose moderate views exposed him to a leftwing coup in his Liverpool constituency in 1981. When he was deselected he left with a typical parting shot: "I will do much to remain a Member of Parliament but the only crawling I ever did was in a two-foot seam of coal at Bradford Colliery and I have no intention of crawling to anybody on the surface."

He joined the SDP soon afterwards, took its whip in the Commons, lought his seat for his new party at the 1983 election and was soundly defeated by the Labour can-

didate. Ogden returned to Labour. Although terminally ill he left his Winchmore Hill home to vote in the Enfield Southgate constituency - one of the votes which helped to defeat Michael Portillo. He felt the Blairled party was one which he

could support again. Before he died he asked about only one other result. He wanted to know if his close friend, Sir Michael Shershy, had held Uxbridge. He was happy to hear that Shersby was one of the Conservative survivors but could not know that Shersby himself would

die two days later. Ogden was born at Middleton, Lancashire, and began his education at the town's Queen Elizabeth's Grammar School before going on to Leigh Technical College and Wigan Mining College. He served in the Merchant Navy for most of the war and, though he was subsequently identified largely with the National Union of Mineworkers, who sponsored him in his constituency, his first trade union was, in fact, the

Radio Officers' Union. In 1964 he was chosen to fight Liverpool. West Derby. which surprisingly had been Conservative-held for election after election. Housing development and the erosion of the Orange Protestant vote had combined, though, to make it a natural target for Labour, and Ogden had linle difficulty in overturning the Tory majority.

He was an active Member

in the House, specialising in

shipping, Commonwealth af-

fairs and, of course, employ-

ment on Mersevside. In the last phase of the first Wilson Government he became parliamentary private secretary to his fellow-miner, Roy Mason (now Lord Mason of Barnsley) then President of the Board of Trade.

Trouble with his constituency first surfaced during the Common Market referendum in 1975. Ogden wanted Britain to remain in Europe while his management committee, undoubtedly Marxist-led, campaigned actively for withdraw-

Relations never recovered after this and, although Ogden survived to hold his seat at the 1979 election, it was obvious that serious efforts were being made to get rid of him.

In June 1981, these succeeded when he was deselected and a left-wing candidate was chosen as his successor. Ogden appealed to his party's National Executive Committee and even threatened to precipitate a by-election. But by the autumn he had decided to leave Labour and join the SDP, claiming that Labour's policies had become completely different from those on which he had stood at the previous election.

He duly fought the 1983 election as an SDP candidate but was overwhelmed by the present West Derby MP, Robert Wareing. Ogden came in a bad third, with 7,849 votes behind the Conservative with 12.862 and Wareing who amassed 23,905.

Ogden made no attempt to re-enter the House. In political retirement he did some work as a consultant. As an enthusiastic philatelist, he became a member of the Royal Mail Stamps Advisory Committee.

His main interest, however. was foreign affairs: in this sphere he concentrated on the Falkland Islands and Yugoslavia. He had been with Shersby on a famous visit to the Falklands in 1981 and their work for the islands continued until their respective deaths. Ogden, in particular, ha-rassed the Foreign Office to sustain support of the islanders' interests.

He also paid an annual visit to Yugoslavia, taking with him food and medical supplies until, in the wake of the country's break-up, the horrors perpetrated there suc-ceeded in curbing even his admiration for the former socialist state's peoples.

He was twice married. By his first wife, now dead, he had one son. His second wife Marjorie, survives him with their two sons and two stepdaughters by her previous

PRINCE NAPOLÉON



Louis Bonaparte, Prince Napoléon, died in Switzerland on May 3 aged 83. He was born in Brussels on January 23,

It was, therefore, something

of a mystery that promotion

did not come earlier. When it

did arrive, however, it came -

largely thanks to the newly

anointed D-G, Alasdair Milne

the controllership of BBC2. It

was one of the corporation's

plum jobs and Wenham rapid-

y established a reputation as a

shrewd and competitive sched-

uler as well as being an

exceptionally cultivated BBC

executive (his suite of offices on

the sixth floor of TV Centre

soon becoming something of a

salon). There were those who

were snobbish about his reli-

ance on snooker as an audi-

ence-builder but the Crucible

Theatre, Sheffield, where the

snooker tournaments took

place, soon became as familiar

a location to millions of view-

ers as Lord's or the Oval.

- in the significant shape of

A PASSIONATE patriot and anti-Fascist, Louis Bonaparte fought for France with great bravery, although he was officially banned from entering the country throughout his

The great-great nephew of Napoleon I. Louis Jérôme Victor-Emmanuel Léopold Marie Bonaparte became head of the imperial house in 1926, after the death of his father, Prince Victor, the grandson of Napoleon's younger brother, Jerome. His mother was Princess Clémentine, daughter of King

Léopold II of Belgium. From his birth, Louis Bonaparte was exiled from France under the 1886 law forbidding male descendants of former

and the environment. For details

on how to make a donation that

is a lasting tribute to a loved one, just phone Daine McHugh

The Regal Society for the Protestion of Birds.
RSPB Regal charity on 207076.

ruling families from entering the country. He spent his early years in Belgium and Britain, where he lived as a boy in Farnborough with Empress Eugénie, widow of Emperor Napoléon III.

Prince Napoléon later settled in Switzerland, attending the universities of Lausanne and Louvain, where he studied political science and economics: In 1939 under the oseudonym Louis Blanchard and claiming Swiss nationality, he enlisted with the French Foreign Legion and saw action in North Africa.

Demobilised in 1941, Prince Napoléon returned to Switzerland and promptly contacted the French and Belgian Resistance movements. A year later, while attempting to cross the Pyrenees with three companions in a bid to join the Free French forces in Algeria, he was arrested by the occupying forces, handed over to the Gestapo and imprisoned for several months, first in the great fortress of Ha at Bor-

The intervention of the Italian royal family helped to secure his release and the imperial pretender, now using the alias Louis Monnier, immediately joined the ORA Resistance group operating in the Indre region of central France. in August 1944, he was

deaux, and later at Fresnes.

badly wounded during a fierce skirmish with the enemy, in which all six other members of his patrol were killed, including his cousin Prince Murat. în 1946 General de Gaulle, commending Prince Napo-

made him a Chevalier de la Legion d'honneur and unofficially permitted him to remain in France. The Prince lived under yet another name. Comte de Montfort, until France's law of exile was abolished on June 24, 1950.

léon's "contempt for danger".

In later years Prince Napoléon, who was awarded the Croix de Guerre for his wartime bravery, participated in the economic and industrial development of the former Belgian Congo and Chad, while also devoting much time to his own model agricultural estate in Switzerland.

A vigorous and proud defender of the Napoleonic cultural heritage, Prince Napoléon studiously (and sensibly avoided political pronouncements, with one notable exception. In 1969, following General de Gaulle's resignation, the prince wrote a newspaper article informing his compatriots that he was prepared to take up any role for the nation, if a majority so desired it.

A man of old-fashioned chivalry and imposing height. the prince was a car enthusiast and an expert skier, diver and mountaineer. In 1979 he generously donated the manuseriors and artworks handed down to him from Napoleon I. Napoléon III and Empress Eugénie, to the French nation.

Prince Napoleon married Alix de Foresta, a Provençal aristocrat, in 1949. He is survived by her and by their two sons and their daughters.

CHARGE AGAINST A VICAR.

On Friday Lord Penzance, official principal, sat in the Chancery Court, York, and heard the case of William Stobart v. Rev. Benjamin Centum Kennicott, Vicar of All Saints'. Monkwearmouth. The counsel for the promoter was Mr. F.H. Jeune; the defendant was unrepresented. The articles of objection against the defendant were that, contrary to the conditions of his order, he, on the 22d of August, 1879, was much intoxicated; that twice on the 20th of July, 1879, he. without lawful excuse, neglected and omitted to perform Divine service in his church: that he repeated this offence on several subsequent occasions and that on the 16th of July he neglected to publish on the three Sundays next ensuing the banns of marriage between William Abbs and Ellen Selina Crump, the usual fees having been paid. It was set forth that by reason of this neglect there existed great scandal and evil report concerning him and that he had caused great scandal in the House of God. In the year 1874 the defendant was before the same Court for a similar offence, when, the charge being proved, he was suspended for three years, which suspension was ordered not to be relaxed until he was able to produce

a certificate of good behaviour signed by three

ON THIS DAY

May 10, 1880

This clergyman "had caused great scandal in the House of God" by being drunk in the streets, failing to publish banns of marriage, and to perform driving service in his church. He was suspended more than once but the elerical authorities did not seem over-a him for good.

beneficed clergymen in the diocese of Durham. Mr. Jeune said the delendant was not reinstated until 1879 and within a few months he was guilty of the charges now brought against him. Mr. Jeune said that up to the present time the defendant's church had been almost entirely neglected and, excepting on one or two occasions when the defendant had had money to draw, he had not been near the church since the 6th of November last. He asked that the defendant might now be more seriously dealt with: though he was instructed from the Bishop of Durham not to press for total deprivation. Lord Penzance referred to

the defendant's suspension in the year 1874. and said that after its expiration he failed to produce a certificate from three clergymen to the effect that he had during his suspension been of irreproachable conduct. He, however, did in 1879 apply to his Lordship to be reinstated. He alleged that he had great difficulty in obtaining the necessary certificate and that this difficulty was mainly the result of local circumstances and animus against him. He, however, produced testimony from persons who were not clergymen to which he (Lord Penzance) gave credence, and upon which he felt satisfied that the defendant had carried out the requirements of the Court; and taking a broad view of the case, he in March, 1870, reinstated the defendant. Now it appeared that three months after that he was drunk again in the streets of his parish, and creating a public scandal ... The defendant by his failure to answer the charge, which had been in elaborate form served upon him. acknowledged his drunkeness and ecclesiasrical neglect, and must therefore be punished for his offence. As he had already been suspended three years, that punishment must be increased and he must now be further suspended for four years and then furnish the necessary certificate from three elergymen of his diocese as to his satisfactory conduct.

PERSONAL COLUMN

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SERVICES	TICKETS FOR SALE	GIFTS	DOMESTIC & CATERING	ANNOUNCEMENTS
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Please send Count Page ann Mrs L Noeuma, Court & Soc PO Bes 495, Virginia S Tel: 0171 782 7347.	AGES AND MARRIAGES connectates by postfire to: lid Advertising. The Times, treet, Landon El 925.	tilk Specious this b'rm, quiet cul-du-sax in tiver 5 mins walk to Richmend/84/Tube superior Richmend/84/Tube superior Richmend-84/Tube superior Richmend-84/Tube superior Richmend-84/Tube superior Richmend Richm	STEPT WIT LET before II july 1997 Orentual Emprésents- tive(a) Colle Tentestea) FILLATOTE, EDWARD FORM WILLIAM of 43 Sometime House, Calcided, Sometimes Eous, Windeldon, London SWIP 534 cited on 29 March 1997 particulum to The Engentus, Michael Smith	hat more effective tribute could there be for a friend or relative who loved the countryside and wild birds? The RSPB is the charift that takes action for wild birds.

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series for the Court Page must be received two

Advertising time is \$15.25 per line inc VAT.

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3 A translation of "bête noire" (8). 4 Berth army doctor with soldiers Unfrocked monk is not behaving

I Prompt to accept a bit left over (9). Note car on motorway (5).

properly (3,2,5). 6 Copper beset by confused insect Australian bravo loves suit in

(resh young design (4,2,3). 8 Handle that requires extra action to open thus (5). 13 A crown caps, initially, one of the

teeth that's not essential (10). 15 Suspect Pasternak's heroine has been swallowed by fish (5.1.3).

17 Creed a nun disseminated nationce and fortitude (9). 18 More than one cup game (8).

21 Humiliating failure in Malia's communications (6). 22 Flag day's introduction uplifted

needy (5). 24 Ring not totally fake (5).

25 A pound of tobacco (4).

LAST WEEK'S WINNERS: K Hargrove M C Corbett, Wymoadham, Norlolk: J

THE TIMES TODAY

مكذا من الاصل

SATURDAY MAY 10 1997

man at heartPage 8

Addiction: People who

need people Page 14

Oscar Wilde: His final

broken years Pages 1, 2

Property: Islands: castles:

.... Pages 7-10

Page 40

Fashion:

NEWS

Local Tories demand vote

A growing rebellion by local Conservative associations over the conduct of the party's leadership contest is threatening to undermine the outcome, which will be decided by 164 MPs.

A Times survey of 80 constituency associations has found almost unanimous support for an urgent overhaul of the rules to give them a direct say in the choice of leader. William Hague, 36, the youngest contender, has emerged as the overwhelming favourite among the rank-and-file...

Question time cut attacked

■ Tony Blair was accused by Conservatives of rushing through arbitrary parliamentary reforms after he abolished the twiceweekly spectacle of Prime Minister's question time Page 1

EastEnder praised

Le Pen attacks

The descent into schizophrenia of

the character Joe Wicks in East-

Enders has prompted thousands of calls from sufferers Page 13

Jean-Marie Le Pen compared im-

migrants to a flock of ravenous

birds who could be starved out

rather than sent home Page 14

Venice demonstration

Italian police said they had taken

seriously an attempt by armed

separatists to occupy the historic Campanile in Venice......Page 15

Israeli and Jordanian leaders met

secretly at the Red Sea resort of

Aqaba in an attempt to patch up a

Vultures in Spain have made a

Darwinian leap in behaviour by

shunning their traditional fare of

carrion and evolving into vicious

Vultures turn hunter

Secret water pact

water dispute

Spice Girls alone The Spice Girls sang live before the Prince of Wales to show they can perform their complicated harmonies without the aid of back-

ing tapes. Summit 'progress'

Labour leaders hailed Britain's "fresh start" in Europe as Tony Blair claimed to have made substantial progress in preparing for the Amsterdam summit Page 2

Moneypenny case

Two young men were acquitted of conspiracy to rob the woman who was the inspiration for Ian Fleming's Miss Moneypenny Page 5

Aberfan memories

The Queen visted Aberfan and met survivors of the disaster of more than 30 years ago Page 6 Sinn Fein plan

Sinn Fein is seeking to reap the rewards of election victory with its two new MPs exploiting every facility at the Commons...... Page 8

Statesmenlike digestion

■ Chris Patten and Helmut Kohl, two of the mightiest eaters at the apex of world leadership, demolished one of the mightiest meals Hong Kong could provide. The colony's Governor and the German Chancellor forgot dull cares and wolfed down the 16course "Guangdong Deluxe Dim Sum" ...

Poisonous Fungi A guide to the leading contenders in the field. Yorkshire Odious Retching Toadstool Death Cap (Hagueis puerilis Stinkhorn (Howardis creepis) (Domellis noxious) Dung Slimv Fungus Ink Cap Lilleyus anonymous

OPINION -

Trust the people: After last week's drubbing at the polls the Tories may be tempted to echo the Iron Duke and "damn democracy", but it is by extending the franchise that the Tories can best recover their fortunes......Page 23 Riches or ruin: To flourish, Venice must be not a theme

ETTERS Freedom of information: scientists have lost their way: tobacco wars; mental health law; British Library fees;

AA INFORMATION

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HOURS OF DARKNESS

Sun resest. 5 17 277

TOMOR

Sun rises: 3 14 am

12.50 am

HIGH TIDES

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London 8 41 pm to 5 12 pm Bristol 8 51 pm to 5 22 am Edinburgh 9 14 pm to 5 24 pm Manchester 8 58 pm to 5 25 pm Penzance 8 58 pm to 5 29 pm

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8.32 pm

6.22 am

park but a living cityPage 23

COLUMNS

Simon Jenkins: In Britain cities and counties are treated as ridiculous, parochial and corrupt. Their democracy is merely a cumbersome opin-Bronwen Maddox: The White House has pronounced itself neutral on Tony Blair's victory, taking care to praise

> OBITUARIES ... Brian Wenham, broadcaster: Eric Ogden, politician; Prince Napoléan..... Page 25

John Major's achievements;

in private, the Administra-

tion is delighted Page 22

- E PUSINESS

Amstrad: A £57.5 million court victory is set to pave the way for a E250 million shareholder handout.........Page 27 Norwich Union: AMP is preparing an audacious bid after the life assurance company completes its £5 billion

flotation. ..Page 27 Groceries: Cullens, the chain founded 121 years ago, is to be taken over by by three Asian businessmen

Markets: The FT-SE 100 rose 50.5 to 4630.9. Sterling fell to 98.0 after falls from \$1.6205 to \$1.6193 and DM2.7678 to _ Page 30 DM2.7421.

Football: Paul Gascoigne

was included in England's squad for games against South Africa, Poland, Italy, France and Brazil..... Page 52 Equestrianism: Ian Stark led Robert Lemieux by 1.4pts after the dressage phase at BadmintonPage 48

Gott: Greg Turner led the field after two rounds of the Benson and Hedges International tournament by one .Page 52

The "positively electric" new Mercedes coupé; fiery Escort.

Home life: Eay Weldon's Giant Puff-ball (Clarkeus bruiserus)

Something rotten: The

RSC's Hamlet is a mess

and a travesty, says Bene-

dict Nightingale... Page 21

Dutch treat: Netherlands

Dance Theatre begin a

tour of Britain Page 20

Spanish fire: Antonio Ga-

des, the flamenco super-

star. unveils a powerful

new tale of blood, lust and

revenge currently on show

in Scotland Page 20

Joely Collins......Page 10 Recommends: Page 11 Helping hands: Can Lab our can persuade artists to part with some royalties to nurture the talent of omorrow?..... Page 21



musical revolution Page 4 What's on: Page 15 TV and radio: Seven-day

Sunny

Cloudy:

Overcast

Rain

Sunny shower

sunny showe

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Lightning

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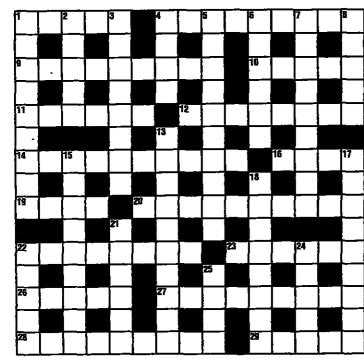
BUSINE

Toda

THE TIMES CROSSWORD NO 20,476

A £20 book token will be awarded to the senders of the first five correct solutions opened next Thursday. Entries should be addressed to: The Times, Saturday Crossword Competition. PO Box 486, Virginia Street, London El 9DD. The names of the winners and the solution will be

Name/Address



- ACROSS I Maiden in difficulty with a dance
- 4 It can make him long to have another job (9). 9 Crew leave vegetable (9). 10 Near miss after crate's speed
- dropped (5). 11 Private presumably out least (6). 12 By-product of pay mum's re-
- 14 Throw flat object further forward. a sure winner (10).
- 16 Force-feed, reportedly (4). 19 Grass ruminants rejected (4). 20 Supply sufficient reason for re-
- treat (4.6). 22 Notes from this mostly interesting sort of crime (8). 23 Unusually large part of car (6).
- 26 Militant leader dismissed from old car plant (5). 27 Try to land (9).
- 28 At the right time, started and did the rounds (9). 29 Speaker's influenced kid (5).

Solution to Puzzle No 20,470

Solution to Puzzle No 20.475

NEWSPAPERS SUPPORT RECYCLING Recycled paper made up 41.2% of the raw material for

HIGHEST & LOWEST

☐ General: England and Wales will see showers, becoming frequent and heavy, at times with hail. Eastern areas may be bright at first. Temperatures should be about average. Scotland cloudy with showers or longer spells of rain, but northern Scotland should be brighter with only scattered showers.

mperatures about average London, SE England, E Anglia, E Midlands, E England, Central N England, NE England, Borders: bright intervals at first but showers developing, some heavy. Wind mainly southerly, moderate becoming fresh. Max 13-16C (55-61F).

☐ Central S England, W Midlands, Channel Isles, SW England, Wales, NW England, Lake District, Isle of Man: rather showery, some heavy with hail. The showers may become more scattered later. Wind mainty southerly, fresh to strong. Mex 12-14C (54-57F).

☐ Edinburgh & Dundee, Aberdeen rather cloudy especially near coasts Some bright intervals developing in land, together with scattered showers. Wind easterly, moderate increasing

Scotland, Glasgow, Argyll, N Ireland: rather cloudy with showers or longer spells of rain. Some brighter but still showery conditions are likely later. erty, fresh to strong. Max 12C ☐ Cent Highlands, Moray Firth, NE Scotland, NW Scotland, Orkney:

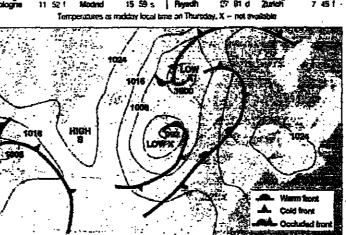
sunny spells and scattered showers. Wind easterly, moderate becoming fresh. Max 10C (50F). ☐ Shetland: sunny then rain later. Wind mainly northwesterly, moderate to fresh, Max 10C (50F).

Outlook: clear or sunny spells and showers, rain at first in northern

AROUND BRITAIN YESTERDAY

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Changes to the chart from noon: low X will slowly drift up the west coast of Scotland and fit low A will move east towards the Faerces and fit, high B will move north and decline



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Concorde supersonic to Brussels on 30 August • two night Oriana cruise from Amsterdam to Southampton via Guernsey • Orient-Express to Victoria £1,299

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INSIDE SECTION



WORKING WEEK

Italian graduate of the English school of law PAGE 29



BUSINESS

Graham Searjeant on the trail of fool's gold PAGE 31



SPORT

Leicester seek to combat Sale's drive **PAGES 44-45** WEEKEND **SPORTING FIXTURES PAGE**

BUSINESS EDITOR Patience Wheatcroft

SATURDAY MAY 10 1997

Patels put Cullens in their shopping basket







The Cullens name will survive after the £7.4 million deal in which litu Patel, above, and partners added the 121-year-old chain to their Europa Foods stores

Shares power to record as the pound slides

THE London stock market hit another record high yes-terday as bumper trading in shares commued in the wake of Labour's landslide elec-

Optimism about the interest rate outlook in Britain and America encouraged unusual-ly heavy demand for financial shares, lifting the FT-SE 100 above 4,600 for the first time with almost one billion shares sharply for the second day running as traders acted on a growing belief that the Government intends to bring ster-

The FT-SE 100 closed up 50.5 at 4,630.9, after another 50point rise on Wall Street overnight. The index has risen by a

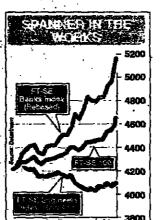
total of 4 per cent this week. Traders said that a squeeze on shares in the banking sector had again led the market higher. Institutions have

been left underweight because of the imminent flotation of building societies such as the Halifax, Woolwich and Northem Rock which greatly increases the size of the quoted banking sector. But shares in the former mutuals will initially be concentrated in the hands of building society members, forcing the institutions to look to buy elsewhere in the sector.

Scotland also benefited from takeover speculation, closing up 33p at 6352 p. Other major winners were NatWest, which rose 162p to 8012p and Bar-

clays, up 45½p at £12.54½p. But analysts do not expect the latest rally in the market to continue as gains have been limited to a relatively small number of sectors. In contrast. the wider FT-SE 250 managed a rise of only 15.8 points to close at 4,526.2.

have risen sharply over the strong results in the UK and neering have struggled owing impact of the high level of the



pound, while utility shares have sagged over continuing uncertainty surrounding the imposition of the windfall tax. There is also concern about essible corporation tax rises Labour's mini-Budget. The pound fell another two

and half pfennigs to close at DM2.7421, while sterling's trade weighted index lost nearly a point to close at 98.0. The pound also lost a little falling from \$1.6205 to \$1.6193, although the dollar itself remained under pressure from

the mark and the yen. The pound has slumped nearly 10 plennigs since hit-ting a post-ERM record on Tuesday amid enthusiasm for the Bank of England reforms announced by the Labour administration. Traders said rumours that Labour was considering re-entering the European exchange-rate

mechanism at DM2.50 were still being used as a selling point, although most analysts view re-entry as unlikely. The market has interpreted the speculation as a reminder that Labour would like to see sterling lower and could be preparing for tax rises to help take the strain off interest

The pound has also suffered from the decline in the dollar comments overnight by Alan Greenspan, Chairman of the Federal Reserve Bank. He said interest rates would need to rise if demand growth in the US did not slow but that conditions are different to 1994 when rates rose substantially. This was taken as an indication that US rates are unlikely to rise by more than a quarter point in the near future.

Stock market, page 30

CULLENS, the grocery chain

taken over by three Asian businessmen who emigrated to Britain from East Africa less than 20 years ago. Jitu Patel, who arrived from Zambia in 1978, and his part-

ners, Naresh and Mahesh Patel, who are brothers and emigrated from Kenya 16 years ago, already own the London-based Europa Foods and Harts chains of conve-Yesterday their holding company. Adminstore, made a £7.4 million recommended

founded 121 years ago, is to be

cash offer for Cullens. The chain, now comprised of only 21 stores, was once larger than J Sainsbury. After a century of growth, Cullens went into rapid decline in the 1970s due the huge expansion of the oig supermarkets and was transformed into a convenience chain in the 1980s.

Jitu Patel, an accountant in his mid-forties, said that when he started out he intended to build up a chain of about 12 shops. He began with a news-agent in Burnt Oak, North London, and then started buying branches of Europa Foods in the early 1980s from the chain's founder. Albert Vince, evenutally taking full control.

When Jitu Patel is not working, he spends much of his time in Neasden at the newly built Hindu temple, one of the largest in the world, His faith led to his success, he says. "This faith gives you immense energy and courage from within to go ahead," he said last vear.

Turnover at Adminstore which controls 38 Europa and Harts stores, was £63.6 n last year. In contrast, Cullens turned over £6.1 million. The offer values Cullens at 28p a share. Adminstore will borrow £4.5 million from Barclays to help to finance the deal.

A spokesman for Europa Foods said that Cullens stores would retain their name and identity. There were no plans to take a stock market listing for the enlarged group.

Tempus, page 30

WEEKEND



Anne Ashworth on the annuity

What higher base rates mean for borrowers



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How the Budget could change your family tax bill

INVESTMENT

Boom or bust? Where will Wall



Peps or pensions? The retirement savings riddle

BUSINESS TODAY

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Tokyo ciose Yen 122.83 NORTH SEA OIL Brant 15-day (Jul). \$12.75 (\$18.65) COLD

London close \$348.55 (\$343.80) denotes midday tracing price

Second time

Siebe, the engineer, launched an agreed £327 million bid for APV, the maker of equipment for the food industry. The bid comes II years after Siebe tried to win APV in a bitterly fought battle. The 1986 bid valued APV at £220 million but the offer was rejected.

Betty Maxwell in pension challenge

By Jason Nisse

KEVIN MAXWELL is to press the trustees of the Mirror Group pension scheme later this month to pay the £311,000a-year pension that his mother, Berry, claims is owed to her by the fund. 🐬

Last year, Mr Maxwell was cleared of charges relating to the disappearance of £450 million from the pension funds of the former Maxwell empire. After Mr Maxwell's acquittal, Philip Sheridan, chairman of the Mirror trustees, wrote to him asking for assistance in locating up to £20 million that the fund has still not been able to uncover, despite strenuous investigations since Robert Maxwell's

death in 1990. Mr Maxwell replied, saying that he was willing to meet

with the trustees, but wanted to raise the issue of his mother's pension fund at the meeting. The 14-strong board of trustees, which includes Charles Wilson, managing director of Mirror Group, have now agreed and a meeting is set for the end of this month. Mrs Maxwell has claimed a pension of £311,000 a year

from the fund. In a letter sent by her lawyers, DJ Freeman. in 1993, she also claimed £466,000 in back payments

and a £750,000 discretionary grant to cover back service to the company. The trustees have denied payment, though documentation shown to them proves that Mrs Maxwell was employed by Mirror Group for nearly a decade. Three years ago Mrs Max-

well claimed to be penniless. At the time she was occupying a rented house in Pimlico valued at £469,000.



Mrs Maxwell: Mirror staff

Amstrad wins £57m damages

By Jason Nissé

A £57.5 million High Court victory for Amstrad, the electronics group run by Alan Sugar, is set to pave the way for a £250 million cash handout to

the group's shareholders. Mr Sugar, who is also chairman of Tottenham Hotspur, the Premiership football club. will receive more than £80 million in cash.

Amstrad was awarded the damages after a five-year legal battle with Seagate, the US computer component maker. Amstrad said it had delivered faulty disk drives for Amstrad's PC2386 personal computers. The poor quality of the

the PC2286, ruined Amstrad's reputation in the early 1990s. Judge Humphrey Lloyd, QC, the official referee, ruled that the disk drives made by Seagate had been faulty and awarded damages to Amstrad under the Sale of Goods Act. Seagate said it would seek leave to appeal, though Nick

PC2386 and its sister computer.

Gardner of Herbert Smith. Amstrad's solicitor, said it was difficult to appeal against rulever know where Amstrad would be today if this had not happened. The great efforts of myself and my small team were demolished. The financial award we have received today only goes some way to compensate us."

Amstrad has another action against a disk drive maker. estern Digital, due to start in California in September. Western supplied components for the PC2386 that are alleged to have been faulty.

Amstrad has more than £200 million of cash on its balance sheet and has been under pressure to distribute this to shareholders. Mr Sugar said he would seek a taxefficient way of distributing the cash once the company knew the result of the Seagate action

Amstrad had good news earlier this week too when it was awarded a contract to build digital set-top decoders for British Interactive Broadcasting, the consortium set up by BT, Midland Bank, Matsushita and BSkyB, which is 40 per cent owned by News Interings by the offical referee.

Mr Sugar said: "Nobody will per cent owned by News International, owner of The Times.

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AMP sights on Norwich Union bonus to policyholders. By waiting until

By MARIANNE CURPHEY INSURANCE CORRESPONDENT

AMP is preparing an audacious takeover bid for Norwich Union shortly after the UK life company completes its £5 billion stock market flotation next month.

The Australian mutual, which already owns Pearl Assurance in the UK, is working with Morgan Stanley, the merchant bank. Yesterday Morgan Stanley declined to comment but AMP comfirmed it had drawn up "a shortlist" of acquisition targets in the UK. Based on the upper end of the flotation

price range of 265p, a dawn raid with a bid premium of 25 per cent could give shareholders at least an extra 70p on each share they own. With the average policyholder in line for an £800 windfall, this could mean an extra £200.

AMP was thwarted in its bid for Scottish Amicable, the mutual insurer, which eventually agreed a deal with Prudential Corporation in March. An industry source said: "AMP learnt

a hard lesson when it failed to bag Scottish Amicable. One of the reasons it bly that of an independent actuary. was beaten by Prudential was because Prudential could offer a much bigger

out bonuses, as NU members will already have their shares. Instead, it can offer a simple premium of 25 per cent or more. It is a perfect fit, and AMP can sort out NU's Australian business." AMP is keen to complete the acquisition before its own demutualisation next year, and would need Department of

Trade and Industry approval and possi-

after the flotation AMP will not have to

bother with the complication of working

To sell or not, page 34

Is this the best way into **Europe?**



Stake sale takes C&W closer to Beijing deal

By ERIC REGULY

CHINA EVERBRIGHT'S purchase of a 7.7 per cent stake in Hongkong Telecom, Cable and Wireless's largest business, was seen vesterday as the first step in C&W reducing its stake in the company before the colony's handover to China. China Everhright is an investment holding

company controlled by the Chinese State Council, a powerful body at the centre of the Beijing power structure. It bought the stake, worth HK\$11.4 billion (about £912 million), from Citic Pacific, another Chinese Government holding company. Citic at one point

owned 20 per cent of Hongkong Telecom and has been trimming its investment in recent years. The reason behind the sales are not known, although analysts note that telecommunications may no longer fit Citic's investment strategy.

China Everbright, whose subsidiaries are listed in Hong Kong, has a diversified portfolio of investments. It is a shareholder of China United Telecommunications Corp, known as Unicom, which was set up in 1994 to compete with the Ministry of Post and Telecommunications, China's main phone company. Unicom has been tipped as a possible partner for

Hongkong Telecom, which may explain China Everbright's purchase of the stake from Citic. C&W, which owns 58.5 per cent of Hongkong Telcom, said: "We welcome the proposed investment by China Everbright. This substantial investment of Chinese state capital demonstrates continued confidence in Hongkong Telecom and Hong Kong through the 1997

transition and beyond." C&W is under pressure from Beijing to reduce its ownership of Hongkong Telecom. The company has suggested that it is willing to do so, but only in return for greater access to the China, the world's fastest growing telecoms market.

In a recent interview, Dick Brown, C&W's chief executive, hinted that a deal could be completed in time for the colony's handover. He called the Hongkong Telecom negotiations "the greatest challenge I've had in my life".

Mr Brown is expected to make a statement on the talks' progress at C&W's annual meeting on Wednesday. He has spent most of this week in

Hong Kong. Shares of C&W rose 10p to 51112p on the City's belief that the company may not lose outright control of Hongkong Telecom.

Tempus, page 30

Siebe in agreed £327m bid for APV

By OLIVER AUGUST

of APV shares.

SIEBE, the engineering company, yesterday launched an E327 million bid for APV, the manufacturer of equipment for the food and

drinks industry.
The bid values APV shares at 105p; they stood at 57p when the first indications of a bid surfaced last month. Siebe revealed that it had been behind the first of two expressions of interests: the other is believed to have been by GEA

Allen Yurko, chief executive of Siebe, said that his group would unlock the growth po-tential of APV, which is underoing restructuring at present. The combined group would be the world's leading food, beverage, dairy and pharmaceutical process automation company, he said.

Siebe is offering 0.11 new

Field talks to Chile's pensions reformer

BY ROBERT MILLER

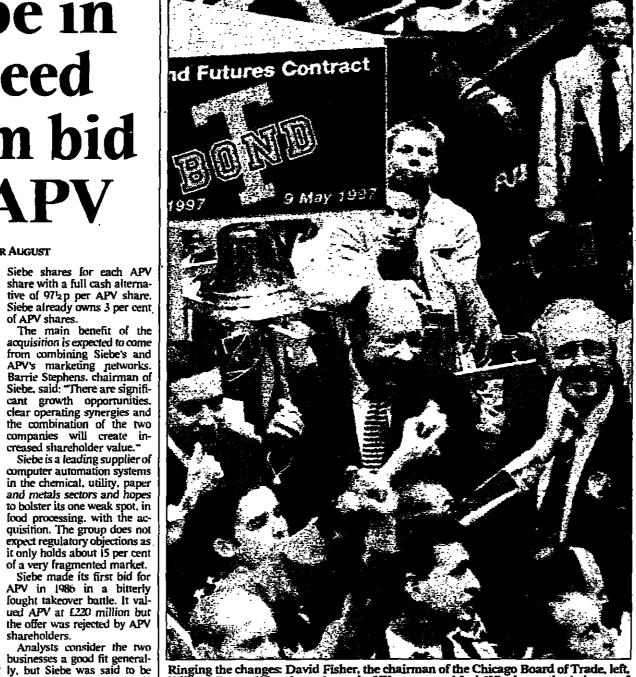
THE man who led the privatisation of pensions in Chile has held talks with Frank Field, the new Social Security and Welfare Reform Minister, it

emerged yesterday. José Pinera, the president of the International Centre for Pension Reform, told delegates at the annual conference of the National Association of Pension Funds (NAPF) in Harrogate that because of the reforms to the Chilean pension system "pensions have ceased to be a government issue, thus depoliticising a huge sector of the economy and giving individuals more control over

The success of Chile's private Pension Savings Account (PSA) has led to seven other South Amerisuit, said Dr Pinera. These include Peru in 1993 and Argentina and Colombia

By 1998, more than 20 million workers in Latin America will have a funded, individually owned and privately operated re-tirement plan. Chile boasts that its PSAs have already accumulated an invest-

ment of \$25 billion. Dr Pinera concluded: "A typical Chilean worker is not indifferent to the behaviour of the stock market or interest rates. Intuitively, he knows that a bad Minister of Finance can reduce the value of his pension rights."



Ringing the changes: David Fisher, the chairman of the Chicago Board of Trade, left, William Crowe, US ambassador to the UK, centre, and Jack Wigglesworth, chairman of Liffe, ring the bell to mark the start of trading on the first day of the amalgamation of the world's two largest futures exchanges, moving a step closer to a 24-hour trading day.

Cheshire challenges Halifax

CHESHIRE County Council has launched a campaign to persuade the Halifax Building Society, set for a £12 billion stock market flotation next month, to give free shares to 50 elderly residents in its care.

1.000 APV employees. Mr Yurko said that the deal could mean some additional The council claims the resireductions in staff". APV has dents will miss out on about already reduced its workforce 10,000 shares worth more than £40,000 simply because from around 13.000 to 7,000. Siebe's shares rose 10p, to they have mental disabilities. 96812. while APV's were up ISp Nearly eight million Halifax customers are to receive free shares worth an average of £1,300 each when the society Tempus. page 30

floats on June 2. However. many people have been exbecause only the firstnamed person on an account is eligible for the lucrative windfalls. This means that some people whose accounts are operated by others, such as disabled people, those in care

and some residents of elderly people's homes, have lost out. John Collins, leader of Cheshire County Council, said legal action was "a possibili-ty". He has written to Frank Dobson, Secretary of State for

Health, asking him to intervene, and is also seeking the backing of Cheshire's 11 MPs. New legislation was ap-proved in March that will change the system of entitlement in the future and give more rights to the disabled.

A Halifax spokesman said: 'We don't discriminate against any group. There is no legal action Cheshire County Council can take. Many disabled people will receive free shares. We believe our scheme

Former Nissan chief in

by Botnar By JASON NISSÉ

£1m action

OCTAV BOTNAR, the former Nissan UK chief who is now a fugitive from justice in Switzerland, is suing Michael Hunt, his former colleague, for El million, which was used to pay for Hunt's defence against fraud charges.

Hunt, who was managing director of Nissan UK, is currently at HM Prison Send, near Woking in Surrey, serving eight years after being convicted in 1993 of conspiring to defaud the Inland Revenue of more than £55 million.

As part of his sentence, Hunt, 62, was banned from being a director for ten years and told to pay £513,000 in proscecution costs. Frank Shannon, Nissari UK's former finance director, was also jailed for three years and told to pay £131,000 in costs.

Mr Botnar, 82 was said to be too ill to travel from Switzerland, where he lives in the ski resort of Villars sur Ollon, to stand trial. Last year, Nissan UK struck a deal with the Revenue to pay £59 million

of outstanding taxes.

However, the Revenue is still demanding another £60 million from Mr Botnar personally and a warrant for his arrest is still outstanding. He was also a leading contributor to the Conservative Party, having donated £90,000 be-fore his flight to Switzerland.

Hunt was defended by Herbert Smith, the leading City law firm, as well as Michael Sherrard QC. According to the action by Mr Botnar, Hunt was lent a total of £1.44 million to pay the costs of this defence. So far Hunt has been able to repay £450,000 and Mr Bot-

nar is claiming the £990,000 which is still outstanding plus interest The issue is complicated by the fact that Herbert Smith

acted for Nissan UK in its dealings with the revenue. Mr Botnar is now using the West End firm of Jeffrey Green Russell, which was also hired by Hunt to appeal to the House of Lords against his conviction. But Philip Cohen, the partner at Jeffrey Green Russell acting for Mr Botnar, said yesterday that the firm is now no longer acting for

BUSINESS ROUNDUP

Billionaire's stake in Christie's now 29.57%

JOSEPH LEWIS, the Bahamas-based billionaire, has increased his holding in Christie's, the fine art auctioneers, to just under one third of the company, it emerged yesterday. Abel Inc. Mr Lewis's investment vehicle, bought three million stages for \$8.85 million and new has 20.57 and most of the shares for £8.85 million and now has 29.57 per cent of the

company, intensifying speculation that he may launch a full takeover bid. Shares in Christie's rose 2p to 301 2p.

A spokeswoman for Christie's would not comment on speculation that Mr Lewis may launch a full bid for the world's oldest auction house, but added: "We are obviously in world's didest auction house, but adder: "We are obviously in contact with Mr Lewis as a major shareholder in the company." Mr Lewis recently paid £40 million for a 25 per cent stake in Glasgow Rangers Football Club. Mr Lewis, who at age 16 started work in his father's cafe in the East End of London, made much of his fortune from speculating on the money markets. His Christie's shares are now worth about £150 million.

Woolwich raises rate

THE Woolwich, the third largest building society, with 550,000 borrowers, is raising its standard variable mortgage rate by 0.31 per cent to 7.6 per cent. The increase will add about £9.48 to the monthly payments on a £50,000 interestonly mortgage. The new rate comes in immediately for new borrowers and from June 1 for existing customers. Halifax Building Society, Abbey National and Cheltenham & Gloucester were among the first lenders to move after interest rates rose from 6 per cent to 6.25 per cent on Tuesday. The Nationwide has so far resisted a rise.

Prowting recovery

A RESURGENCE in second-half trading helped Prowting. the housebuilder, to bounce back from its halfway slump to lift pre-tax profits to £7.7 million (£6 million) in the full year. The company, which six months ago was nursing a 46 per cent fall in half-time profits, said that demand had picked up sharply after last August as margins jumped from 5.7 per cent to 8.6 per cent. Terry Roydon, chief executive, said: "It's not going berserk, it's certainly not Kensington, but we are seeing a steady recovery." Earnings rose to 6.1p a share (4.7p), and a final of 2.1p makes 4p for the year, due on July 14.

Stagecoach 'low payer'

STAGECOACH, Britain's largest transport group, pays the lowest average weekly wage in the privatised bus industry, according to a survey from the Transport and General Workers Union. The company, which runs the largest proportion of around-town buses in Britain, was found to pay many of its drivers less than E4 an hour, with an average weekly wage of £186. The union said that the remaining publicly owned bus operators pay £208 a week. Go-Ahead and Firstbus, the transport groups, also pay a significant proportion of their drivers below £4 an hour, the survey said.

Watchdog snaps at BT

BT breached the terms of its licence in the way it runs Call Minder, its telephone answering service, according to a ruling from Offel, the telecoms regulator, yesterday. Don-Cruickshank, Director-General of Offel, said he was in no doubt that BT was at fault after completing an investigation into the service, which has more than 700,000 users. The inquiry follows a complaint from a rival. But the regulator said that unless BT's rivals can prove they are "seriously interested in setting up competing services", then BT may not

New rail routes agreed

MORE freedom for private train companies to expand their services was signalled yesterday by John Swift, the rail regulator. He ruled that the South Wales and West company can run new through-rail services in competition with CrossCountry, operated by Richard Branson's Virgin Group. Railtrack had originally said that South Wales and West, run by Prism Rail, did not have the right to operate the new services from Manchester to London Waterloo, Manchester to Penzance in Cornwall and Liverpool to Portsmouth in Hampshire, all via Newport in Gwent and Bristol.

JLI bid talks end

SHARES in JLI Group fell 6p to 55½ p yesterday after the specialist foods company said talks on a possible takeover of the business have ended without agreement. In February JLI shareholders were told of preliminary approaches which may or may not lead to an offer being made for the company". Yesterday the company said that current trading in the group's continuing operations is in line with management's expectations. The group expects to announce its year-end results on June 12.

T&B pays £17m for rival

TIBBETT & BRITTEN, the distribution company, is preparing to swallow its smaller rival, Applied Distribution, in a deal worth about £17 million. T&B announced yesterday that it is in discussions with Applied about a possible allshare offer at around 48p per share. The news sent shares in Applied up 6p to 42p while T&B's shares rose lp to 622/2p. Barings. Applied's adviser, was reprimanded by the Takeover Panel in February for not consulting it on two occasions when the company's share price moved sharply.

Graseby sells in US

GRASEBY: the UK electronic instruments group, has sold Graseby Controls. Inc. a US subsidiary, to TB Wood's Inc for around E3 million. The subsidiary, based in North Carolina, manufactures motor control products and includes the activities of the former Graseby Volkmann Corporation. Last year. Graseby Controls had sales of £3.2 million and a trading profit of £400,000. At the end of 1996, net assets were £900,000. Graseby-will use the proceeds of the disposal to

Cost of reshaping NIE hits profits

RESTRUCTURING charges made in anticipation of new price controls almost halved pre-tax profits of Northern Ireland Electricity. David Jeffries, chairman,

paying over the odds. Chris Hemingway at Lehman Brothers said: It is a very

expensive purchase. They will

have to double the profits of the business before it adds

anything in terms of share-

holder value. The fact that it

adds to earnings per share is

Siebe defended its move,

saying that APV will be sub-

ected to Siebe's overall growth

target of 10 per cent per

Siebe will inherit more than

irrelevant,"

said that NIE incurred reorganisation costs of 550.6 million last year after a dispute with Douglas McIldoon, the industry regulator, who had demanded a better deal for consumers. In the year to March 31, pre-tax profits fell to £00 million, from £107.4 million.

The dispute looked likely to be settled last month, when the Monopolies and Mergers Commission called for a reve-

financial year. However, the regulator has not yet accepted the findings of the MMC, to which he had referred the matter. NIE wrote to him last week, to put the case for accepting the MMC findings. Mr Jeffries said that the

MMC decision was harsher than he had hoped. Sales grew modestly last year, from 5525 million to 5560 million. Earnings per share fell to 21.op. from 58.8p. but the full-year dividend rises to 20.0p (19p), with a final 15.4p (14p).

Millionaire club as Fogel sells Toy Stack to Hamleys

By Sarah Cunningham

DAVID FOGEL founder of the Toy Stack chain of toy shops, is set to become a millionaire after agreeing to for £8.7 million.

Mr Fogel. 42, who was sole owner of Toy Stack, will also collect a net dividend worth £1.44 million ahead of the sale's completion.

Hamleys intends to carry on running Toy Stack, which has il branches, as a separate

Mr Fogel began the busi-ness in 1975 with one shop, named Hobbies and Models.

in Kenton, Middlesex. A second store was opened in 1984 in Ealing, west London, and expansion then began under the Toy Stack name. Mr Fogel is to join the board of Hamleys as buying and merchandising director. He will be paid an

annual £115,000 plus benefits

and will be on a 12-month rolling contract. Toy Stack had sales of £10.5 million last year, up from £9.5 million, and pre-tax profits of £1.7 million, unchanged on the previous year. Howard Dyer, chairman of Hamleys, said that the true pre-tax profit last

year was nearer £1.4 million, because Mr Fogel underpaid himself. Mr Dyer said that the results for the whole year will be "heavily dependent on trad-ing during the Christmas period"

Mr Dyer said the acquisi-tion will enhance Hamley's earnings in the current year and in the first full year of trading". He said that buying Toy Stack was a way of making the most of Hamley's "buying and toy retailing skills."

Tempus, page 30

THE SUNDAY TIMES **INSTANT** INTEREST

6Brown stopped Burns in midsentence. 'There is this we would like to do,' he said, producing a letter setting out the plan

a stunning impact 9 THE SUNDAY PAPERS

that was to have such

Tring founder seeks to oust old school chum

A POWER struggle that would not be out of place in an episode of Dallas erupted at Tring International yesterday when one of the company's founders launched a bid to oust his co-founder and former school friend from the board.

Mark Frey and Philip Robinson, who met in the 1960s at Buckingham College in Harrow, fell out two years ago when their cut-price music and video publishing company ran into a series of high-

profile rows over copyright.
Tring was accused by A&M records over an instrumental album of Chris Rea songs, and Cameron Mackintosh, the impresario, sued over a Les Miserables album that did not feature the original cast. The company also became involved in copyright disputes with Polygram, EMI, MCA. Island and K-Tel.

Tring has since seen its share price nosedive from 151p to 11p, and the company suffered a pre-tax loss of £2.4

million on turnover of \$10.4 million for the six months to September 30 last year. Mr Frey, who was forced to resign as joint chief executive IS months ago, now proposes to remove Mr Robinson, who is currently chief executive, along with Joe Bollom, the chairman, and Steve Porter. the finance director. He has the support of lay Chernow, a major shareholder, and if successful Mr Frey and two others will

replace the present board. Mr Robinson said vesterday: "It is hugely sad and it's all quite hurtful. I don't talk privately to Mark and there is no chance of doing a deal to allow him to come back into the company.

Since Mr Frey resigned, Tring had

settled approximately 15 disputes with record companies, including K-Tel, which has subsequently bought two million shares in the company, he said.

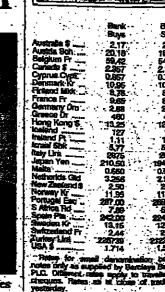
Mr Robinson added: "Mark left

because there was a growing difference in the way we thought that the business should be run." The former friends made an estimated £10 million each when Tring floated on the stock market at 118p in 1994, giving it a market value of £50 million. It estimated that Mr Frey and Mr Chernow own a 20 per cent stake, compared to 15 per cent owned by the present board.

The future of the company will be decided at an extraordinary general meeting before May 29, the date that Tring's preliminary results for the year ended March 31 are due to be announced.



Philip Robinson, left, and Mark Frey in happier times



A WORKING WEEK FOR: VANNI TREVES

Florentine advocate of life beyond the law

Jon Ashworth cross-examines a corporate laywer who has managed to find the time to extend his busy brief to the boardroom

busy billing clients to consider a life outside the office. Not Vanni Treves. He walks the streets of London, sits on company boards, iday and waves the flag for art galleries, in addition to running a fast-

growing law firm. Not bad, for an Italian who arrived in the UK more than 50 years ago, not speaking a word of English.

Treves, 56, is about to log his 10th year as senior partner in Macfarlanes, a City law firm that combines aggressive tactics with a patrician pedigree. Richard Branson's family trusts are among the clients, while Treves acts personally for John Paul Getty II, the reclusive billionaire who saved Canova's The Three

Graces for the nation.

He is a governor of London Business
School, leads fund-raising for the National Portrait Gallery, and is chairman of three publicly quoted companies - BBA Group, where Roberto Quarta is chief executive: McKechnie, the Walsall-based components group; and Trinity Holdings. a maker of buses, dust carrs and fire engines. Treves father was killed fighting for the Allies during the liberation of Florence in 1944. His mother fell in love with an Englishman,

and decamped to the UK, dispatching Treves on You had to his new course. "At the age of five I found myself read The in London, and was put immediately, not speak-Times to show ing a word of English, into a little prep school. It sounded harsh, but it you could worked extremely well, speak the I'm told, because in that kind of environment, one language learnt the language incredibly quickly."

Schooling at St Paul's, and a law degree from University College, Oxford, have left. Treves sounding every hit the Englishman. After graduating in 1961 at the age of 20, he set off for America, and embarked on a postgraduate degree at the University of Illinois in the splendidly named Champagne, south of Chicago.

On his return, he joined Macfarlanes.

then a small, gentlemanly, firm with an aristocratic clientele. "A little list went up, I remember, on the law library nonce board, saying that two partners would be visiting the college on such and such a day, in order to interview gentlemen who might be interested in becoming solicitors. I thought, well, I'll have a go."

barring a one-year secondment on Wall Street in the late 1960s. The latter shaped his thinking. "Law now, in this country, is a business. At that time, it was a learned, somewhat introspective, profession, but the Americans were already there in terms of aggressive marketing, already practising law as a business, and I learnt a great deal from that."

Marfarlanes is not a big firm, ranking 25th in the Legal Business 100, with gross

five are Clifford Chance (£282 million); Linklaters & Paines (£187 million); Freshfields (£154.6 million); Allen &

Overy (E138 million); and Slaughter and May (E133 million); and Slaughter and May (E133 million).

Fees aside, Macfarlanes is right up there with the leaders in terms of profitability, with each partner making an average profit of E343,000. Treves says: "We have, for many years, been in financial terms one of the most successful firms in the country, and I'd like to think our reputation continues to grow. We are not a huge firm. We don't pretend to be. What we'd like to be is a firm of choice for those, and there are many of them, thank goodness, who are not looking for a huge firm to do their business.

"All we've got to sell is our intelligence, our experience and our time. There are no widgets here. And it's a very competitive marketplace. London is full of extremely talented lawyers, and therefore to be distinctive, to be chosen by clients in such an environment, is a demanding business, and that's the business we're in."

As a corporate lawyer. Treves spends much of his time telling people how to run their businesses, so it was perhaps inevitable that he would be told to practise what he preached. In 1984, he became a non-executive director of Oceonics, a marine services company which he had seen to the market, and

which was later to sport, John Bryan of toe-sucking fame as managing director. Oceonics had "an extremely bumpy ride", but Treves stuck with it, since "rats don't leave sinking ships" During one of the calm spells, he quietly made his exit. The company shares were suspended earlier this year. Further

directorships were to fol-low, including a stint with Saatchi & Saatchi. I think it's a shame that so few people do it. Business lawyers do see an awful lot of how the world works, and have, I think, relevant experience." The fees paid to Treves as a director are passed on to Macfarlanes.

Treves is the consummate City gent. with a club in St James's, and dinners at Westminster, and it is all too easy to forget his Italian origins. He once held an Italian passport, and was obliged to become a British subject in order to qualify as a solicitor. You had to read an editorial from The Times to a policeman, in order to show you could speak the language properly."
He lives in Islin

with his wife, Angela, and walks to Macfarlanes' office near Chancery Lane. They also have a home in Suffolk. Their three children are Alexander, who went to Eton and Cambridge, and is now with Mercury Asset Management in Singapore, William, another old Etonian, who is in his final year at Oxford, and Louise. who is boarding at Downe House, near Newbury in Berkshire. A gift from William - a large, sculptured vulture - sits in the corner of his father's airy office.



Gimmick-free zone: Vanni Treves says that all his legal practice has to sell "is our intelligence, our experience and our time. There are no widgets here'

Family holidays consist of "geriatric skiing" in Switzerland or America, and summer trips to Italy, where any number of aunts and uncles await. Treves was born in Florence, and is still torn. The beauty of Florence, the vivacity of the Florentine, the vibrancy of life there, are almost beyond description. On the other hand, if you're a fairly organised person like me, the chaos, the absence of bus queues, the petty corruption, the constant disorganisation, are extremely irritating."

London has seen no shortage of mergers among middle-tier law firms, and Macfarlanes is an obvious target. We're often approached, but we want to remain independent. We are a very, very tight-knit partnership. It was only recentprolific, that I no longer knew the names of all my partners' children. When we say that partnership here is closer than marriage, we're only half-joking."

Being small has its advantages. "If you are in one of the great firms of England, Slaughter and May, Freshfields, and so on, what you are doing is defending a franchise. What we are doing is trying to build a great firm. And that requires very, very different mindsets." In other words, a partner in Macfarlanes has to try that much

harder. This sounds like a recipe for hardnosed aggression - the Dibb Lupton Alsop approach - but Treves insists otherwise. There is a long tradition of civilisation in this firm. What we try to do

is to be highly respected by our peers, while onday at the same time being uesday 🗸 extremely ambitious and trenchant in our ednesday attitude." Treves says hursday_ he is fortunate to enjoy such variety. "I can't exaggerate how lucky

riday I am to have that meld of responsibility. I have the firm, I have the companies, I have quite a lot of trusteeships, and I also have - and need to have, to avoid going potty - extramu-

put your

money

on the

TORTOISE

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ral activities." These include London Business School, which "bridges, admirably, the historic gap between management on the one side, and education on the other, in a way that this country is only belatedly managing to do. When you compare the quality and number of business schools in the US with the paucity in this country. . .lamentable."

Treves is chairman of the development board of the National Portrait Gallery. which he describes as one of Britain's undersung treasures. He loves watercolours, and painting in general.

On another front, he has just been asked to be chairman of a new NSPCC Justice for Children appeal seeking to fight paedophiles and afford better protection to child witnesses in court. "I can't begin to

exaggerate the extent and subtlety of paedophile rings in this country. [It is] unbelievable how numerous and perni-cious these rings are, and the NSPCC is doing some ground-breaking work in tracking down these people."

ger-or-swoon

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illuminate

Treves is happy to continue as senior partner for as long as his peers allow - he is just starting his fourth, three-year term, - and will continue in his own inimitable style. He walks at least two hours a day. and can often be found strolling through Covent Garden, on his way back from lunch at Boodle's. Treves makes light of his achievements. "When my wife is asked what I do for a living, she says absolutely truthfully 'he eats, and he talks, in that order'. Absolutely true!" Those billings will have to wait.

(1) Halifax Solid Gold 90 Day £25,000+

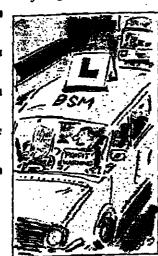
with net income reinvested. (2) Low Risk Growth Model Portfolio

End of an era

of boardroom battles over a period of at least 20 years. He died on Thursday morning at his Bournemouth home aged 70. So effective was his lobbying that on at least two occasions he managed to have Department of Trade inspectors appointed to examine his claims. A colleague, then on The Sunday Times, recalls that Jim would regularly arrive at that newspaper's offices as editions were going to press and insist on dragging him out for a drink and an update on his latest campaign. His last battle before semi-

retirement was against Andrew "Tarzan" Greystoke, the fringe financier who must have regretted the day he tried to remove Rowland-Jones as chairman of Bremner, a Glasgow department store business. That battle continues in the courts after his death, his son James assures me, a decade or more after it started.

● A STORY from the architectural profession confirms everything we all suspected



When I open this envelope, I want you to do an emergency stop.

THE sad news arrives of the death of Jim Rowland-Jones, indefatigable fighter for the small shareholder in a series dome at Spitalfields that the market will one day occupy, and the clean-living architects have run into a peculiar snag. It seems the 10,000-odd traders there will need huge areas set aside for smoking rooms. because a full half of them are slaves to the weed. Liffe's current base at Cannon Street is also non-smoking and has the usual designated areas, although I recall from my last visit that, as in most offices, smokers tended to huddle on window-sills and outside walkways when the urge took them. A Liffe spokeswoman denies any significantly higher level of addiction, to tobacco or anything else, but adds: "It is a more stressful job."

Off the rails

NOTE the unusual strength of Railtrack shares earlier this week, on the day that South West Trains was let off with a derisory fine and it became obvious that Labour would not include reform of rail regulation in the next Queen's Speech. Directors have been known to suggest privately to the City that Railtrack is bombproof whichever party is in power, because their own regulator, John Swift, can only be removed for "incapacity or mishehaviour" (almost impossible; the same applies to judges, and try sacking one of them) or by Act of Parliament. and can do what he wants until November next year when

his contract runs out. The market obviously believes them. Not so, says my man in the anorak on the railway cuttings. Gavin Strang. the minister into whose bailiwick this falls, might care to plance at something called the Deregulation and Contracting Act 1994, section 1 thereof, for a start. This allows him to change the law by statutory in-



strument, that is, pretty well overnight. This is known in the trade as "Henry Vill powers", it seems. Mr Strang is better on mad cows, his last area of expertise, than on railway regulation, but he should not believe the Sir Humphreys who tell him nothing can be

• GUESS which heavyweight political pundit won the Mirror Group sweepstake with the closest estimate of Labour's majority? As his former employer would have put it, it was Kelvin what won it. Kelvin Mackenzie, former editor of The Sun and now in charge of LIVE TV. Mirror's largely unwatched cable service, came away £240 richer. Inspired by his political acumen, he then put a £2.000 bet on the Tory leadership election — backing Michael Heseltine. Oh dear. Kelvin's reaction? " The Socialists have only been in power a week, and I'm already E1,760 down."

Co-operative?

ONE would hate to cast a dampener over the victory celebrations at the Co-Operative Retail Services today, but power appears to have gone to someone's head. A couple of weeks ago, when the War of Andrew Regan's Ego had just been won, we asked the CRS if a representative of The Times could attend the annual meeting in Holborn this afternoon and get an idea of the mood of the members. Said Harry Moore, chief executive, cheerfully: "I don't see why not."

Now somebody who styles himself "Corporate affairs officer" — at the Co-op? — says the chairman, Peter Rowbotham, has had a think about it and decided to keep the press out. As to ordinary members' views, these are to be obtained from an information officer, whatever that is. It all sounds a bit Stalinist. As I recall, the last left-leaning business that made a habit of barring the press was run by Robert Maxwell, and look what happened to him.

Cashing in

JUST how far Standard Chartered has come was illustrated by Malcolm Williamson's good fortune this week. The bank's chief executive exercised his option on 103,000 shares awarded at 281p a share in 1993, a time when the bank was so accident-prone that it was questionable whether it would survive. On Thursday he cashed in his options at 958p a share, a profit of £600,000. His timing was not perfect — he could have waited until yesterday's surge in financial stocks, which left the shares worth £10.162.



Malcolm Williamson: reaping his just rewards at Standard Chartered

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as well as up and the investor may not get back the amount originally invested. Changes in exchange rates may affect the value of overseas investments. The source of all figures is Hindsight except GVG performance: Source GVG. All performance figures are from the faunch of the Low Risk Growth Portfolio on 31/3/91 to 31/3/97.

refiners are suffering from poor margins and overcapacity — and Siebe was at risk of suffering a slowdown in a core business.

The solution for Siebe is APV, not for its

products, which are no more than a useful

addition, or its management, which has not

addition, or its management, which has not been covered in glory. Siebe wants APV's sales outlets, which would bring a large swathe of industry as potential customers for Foxboro's systems. With gross margins of 60 per cent plus, a mere £10 million in extra revenue from APV's customers would bring streable most colors.

sizeable profit gains.

If GEA is considering a bid, APV share-holders should not get too excited. The German company is a strong competitor to

APV, and the European Commission might

well block any deal. At the moment, Siebe

would see C&W losing con-

trol of Hongkong Telecom.

HongKong Telecom with

unfettered access to China in

exhange for C&W reducing

its interest to 51 per cent. A

compromise is the probable

outcome but the Chinese are

offers the only sensible solution.

CHINESE WHISPERS

TEMPUS

Siebe's bid idea

piece of HongKong Telecom
— Citic, the Chinese trading

house already owns 7.7 per

C&W gives up would not be

offered to a third party. In

return, C&W presumably

would get greater access to

This is only the very

roughest outline of the deal.

The worst case scenario

the Chinese market

- and that whatever

THE MARKET is convinced that another bidder for APV is hiding in the shrubbery. However, no one should assume that APV has

ling to swan; there are special reasons why

Siebe is offering such a helty premium for the

cloud. Speculation about the bid that emerged

shareholders, the problem is

compounded because of a

little row with its regulator; the latter is not minded to

swallow the recommenda-

tions from the Monopolies

DOLLAR HATES

regulator had in mind.



Another record desp Dow applying the bral

MICHAEL CLARK

that "It is better to travel than

to arrive" could easily have

been applied to Manchester

United, which this week

began on a positive note as the

bond market tried to extend

the week's impressive gains. It

had limited success, and later

In futures, the June long gilt

enjoyed another day of heavy

turnover, rising £11/32 to

Ell47/32, with 116,000 con

tracts completed. In longs,

Treasury 8 per cent 2015 put on

£5/16 to £1097/16. At the

shorter end, Treasury 8 per

cent 2000 rose three ticks to

E1017/32.

NEW YORK: US stocks

were down at midday as a

ments by Alan Greenspan, the

Fed chairman, faded and the

bond market retreated from

its highs. Analysts said weakness in the dollar was contrib-

uting to uncertainty in bonds.

The Dow was down 24.88 at

A WEEK is a long time in fin-ancial markets, as traders and investors alike have been discovering.

Just a week after Labour swept to power, on its way to offering the Bank of England partial independence over implementing monetary policy. share prices and Government bonds have both been scaling new heights. Yesterday, the FT-SE 100 touched 4,646.0. helped by another firm start to trading on Wall Street. However, with the Dow Jones industrial average soon giving up early gains. London finished below its best. The index rose 50.5 to a new closing high of 4,030.9, stretching its rise since Labour took office to 185.

Such is the renewed confidence in the Square Mile that some brokers have begun upgrading year-end forecasts for the index. Earlier this week. ABN Amro Hoare Govett raised its forecast from 4,000 to 4.500, and Panmure Gordon stuck its neck out by lifting its prediction from 4,500 to 5,000. SBC Warburg is reckoned to have lifted its year-end number to 4.650, while Dresdner Kleinwort Benson has decided to stick by its original 4.750.

Credit Lyonnais Laing recognises the current strength of the bond and equity markets but has no intention of raising its current forecast of 4,450. Corey Miller, of Laing, says: We're not moving at the moment. There are still plenty of hurdles for the market to cross, such as advance corporation tax."

Ed Warner, of NatWest Securities, agrees, saying: "It's too early. We are sticking with our year-end forecast of 4,600."

Once again it was financials that led equities higher and they accounted for a big proportion of total market turnover of 994 million shares. The banks have easily outperformed all other sectors in the investors scramble to increase their weightings in a marketplace desperately short of stock. The whole sector has been upgraded on the back of

a strong bond market.
With three more building societies poised for stock market debuts in coming weeks. the situation can only get worse for market-makers. Only yesterday was the extent some big firms starting to blood on the walls," said one leading market-maker. "The



Allen Yurko, managing director, saw Siebe shares rise

big firms are wealthy enough to take the losses on the chin,"

said another. The situation has been put into context by Bardays Bank, up a further 46p at £12.55. Just four weeks ago, it stood at £10. Alliance & Leicester, which began trading last month at 522p, closed steady at 626p. Other strong performers included Abbey National, up 282p at 913p. HSBC, up 622p at £18.572.

boro in the US on the way, while APV has achieved little. The City was impressed by the deal and marked Siebe Hp higher at 970p.

Applied Distribution rose

op to 42p after a larger rival. Tibbett & Britten, lp firmer at

million. Siebe made an ag-gressive bid for APV in 1986

but had to concede defeat after

an acrimonious fight. It has

since gone on to better things,

acquiring Unitech and Fox-

BSkyB fell 912p to 586p as about 1.25 per cent of the company changed hands at a discount to the ruling price. Goldman Sachs, the US securities house, unloaded 20 million shares at 582p. Pearson, up 5p at 7162p, with a 5 per cent stake denied selling. Granada also has a 6.5 per cent stake.

Lloyds TSB, up 18p at 620 2p. NatWest, up 18p at 803p, and Royal Bank of Scotland, up 33p at 635½ p after figures this week, and Standard Char-

tered, up 36p at £10.1612. There was heavy turnover of 41.34 million shares in BP, up 9½p to 734p, with investors continuing to reflect on this week's better than expected

first-quarter figures. APV raced up 17p to 106 2p as Siebe launched an agreed bid worth 105p a share, or £327 62212 p, announced that it was in bid talks. Tibbett said the bid would value the distribution and warehousing group at 48p a share, or almost £17 million. Applied Distribution said in January that it was in bid talks. Its shares fell from 165p a year ago after bearish

Cullens responded to news of a bid approach with a rise of 32p to 272p. Adminstore is making an agreed 28p-a-share bid valuing the food retailer at

MOVERS	OF THE WEEK
APV 106%p Applied Distribution 42p BTR 230%p BP 734p Wace 41%p Alliance & Leicester 626p Jacques Vert 29p Dalgely 263p	Week's classes +12½pSiebe bids £327 million +5pTöbett to bid £17 million -29½pStrong first-quarter figures -33pTrird profits warning +55pInstitutional demand for sector -13½pAnother profits warning 470Dividend cut

	Dow Jones
	Tokyo: Nikkei Average 19802-78 (-259)
• ,	Hong Kong: Hang Seng 13930.80 (+190.
espite	Amsterdam: 780.81 (+4.
- .	Sydney: 40 2526.0 (+31
rakes	Frankfurt:
IUILO	Singapore: 2066.21 (+6.
E7.4 million. Adminstore. which owns Europa Foods	Brussels: General 12501,66 (+34)
and Harts the Grocer, has had acceptances for 32.1 per cent. Safeway retreated 4p to	Paris: 2633.91 (-9.
338p ahead of next week's results as SBC Warburg, the	Zurich: SKA Gen 1025.90 (+0.1
broker, switched from "buy" to "sell". All the other super-	London: FT 30
market chains have reported	FTSE 100 4630.9 (+50
better than expected rises in	FTSE 250
like-for-like sales in the cur-	FTSE Eurotrack 100 2287.77 (+1.
rent year. Therefore, it is	FTSE All-Share 2208.01 (+19.1
argued, these must have been	FTSE Non Financials 2210.52 (+7.
at the expense of Safeway.	FTSE Fixed Interest 119.67 (+0.1 FTSE Gotal Secs
Kwik Save shed another	Rargains 616
92p at 2812p amid reflection	SEAQ Volume 994.6
on Thursday's profits down-	0.55 1.5193 (-0.00)
turn. Concern that middle-	German Mark
range food retailers may be	Bank of England official close (4pm)
suffering also left Morrison	E:ECU
Supermarkets 12p off at	E:SDR
1582p, and Shoprite 4p	RP1 155.4 Mar (2.6%) Jan 1987=1 RPIX 154.9 Mar (2.7%) Jan 1987=1
lighter at 26p.	
The Square Mile maxim	RECENTISSUES

United, which this week	Autora Lov Trust 100½ +
clinched the Premier League	Cable & Wireless 286' +
title for the fourth time in five	Chariton Athletic 57'2 .
	Close Bros Prot VCT 95 .
years. The shares finished the	Comino 14712 .
day 162 p lower at 605p.	Donatantonio 812 .
Toad accelerated 9p to 50p	Dragons Hith Clubs 12512 .
on the back of its deal with	Heal's 212'.
Noel Edmonds, who is in line	ITG Group 162⅓ .
for a £2.4 million stake if he	Lady in Leisure 1275 -
makes the car security special-	iongbridge inti 1175 +
	Mrtn Currie I&G Cap 915
ist a household name.	Mrtn Currle I&G Inc 98 .
AIM-listed Snakeboard	NMT (50) 50 +
slipped a further 4 p to a low	Newcastle Utd 1195 +
of 12p. It was floated earlier	Northstar Secs 29 .
this year at 34 p.	Oxford Tech Venture 115 + 2
☐ GILT EDGED: Trading	Partners Hidgs 1715 .
became an a positive note or the	Pennine AIM (100) 100 :

bbiled over as profit-takers moved in ahead of the week-	Soccer Investments 10	11': 13': 17':	:-
end. Index-linked issues, which have lagged in recent weeks,	RIGHTS ISS	JES	2000 1000
drew fresh support on the back of a strong equity mar- ket, with rises reaching £4.	Ask Central n/p (160) 5 Barlows n/p (525)	5 · 2	- 2

Oxford Micir (360)

Man Utd.

Pennine AIM (100)

Petra Diamonds

MAJORC	HANGES
RISES: Shield Diag Peptide Thera	345p (+22¹ap)
Celtech Utd Assurance Ryl Bk Scot Telspec	513½p (+30p) 635½p (+33p)
insh Cont FALLS:	670p (+30p)
Low & Bonar Trinity Hidgs Medevs	272°zp (-12p)
Honke	a wear (- 140)

. 605p (-161-p)

..... 825p (-15p)

MAJOR INDICES ew York (midday): suddenly been transformed from ugly duckprocess control group. Siebe's own share price has been under a yesterday may be responsible for recent

- 1	yesterday may be responsit	de tor recent
.66 (+34.66)	under-performance, but Siebe's	own fortunes
.]	have been in doubt. The motor	behind Siebe's,
201/040	growth in recent years has bee	n Foxboro, the
3.91 (- 9.40)	maker of computerised autom	
	for process control, and Sie	he has been
5.90 (+0.50)	particularly successful in selling	the metamoto
Į.		
	the integrated oil and chemi-	
60,3 (+)3.3) 30,9 (+50.5)	However, doubts have emerged	as to whether
26.2 (+15.8)	oil and gas will remain a go	ood market —
47.5 (+21.3)	<u>-</u>	
7.77 (+1.38)		 -
O1 (+19.85)	C&W	piece of Hong
0.52 (+7.67)	COXYV	- Citic, the C
9.67 (+0.38)	CABLE AND WIRELESS	house already
7.20 (+0.61) 61040	shares have been a fine	cent — and
994.6m		
93 (-0.0012)	investment this year, but	C&W gives up
21 (+0.0257)	only the patientshould buy at	offered to a t
98,0 (-0.8)	this delicate stage in the	return, C&W
e (4pm) . (company's history. The next	would get gro
1.4599	two months could make or	the Chinese m
1.1814 n 1987=100	break C&W's fortunes. In	This is o
n 1987=100	July, Hong Kong reverts to	roughest outli
	Chinese control The cues	The recent
	Chinese control. The ques- tion is whether Hongkong	The worst
ES:	tion is whether Hongkong	
	Telecom, which is 58.5 per	}
51	cent owned by C&W, will go	1
+ 45	with it.	
ኔ + . ኔ 🕯	The question is important	
4 + 1	because HongKong Telecom	JFT-SE all-si
	is by far the most important	Index (reba
1		
ا ط	business in the C&W empire.	- A-V
노 ·	Eliminate it from the mix	
'a (and you have little more	E SECTION
ا ا	than a struggling cable	A Bright Street
ኔ	group in Britain and a	
ኔ - 3	collection of diminutive	
2 + Z (phone operators in countries	ö
١ ا	you might have trouble spot-	5.00
	San an emp COM bearing	8
+ 1	ting on a map. C&W knows	May Jun Jul
\ • \ \ \	that Beijing wants a bigger	· L
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+ 20 .		
٠٠	NIE	and depreciat
	1712	than the regu
ነ + 3	UTILITIES look like an in-	ing. For sha
ኑ + 3	vestment dustbin until the	reassurance is
ኑ <u> </u>		
ا ا	new Chancellor identifies his	free balance
۱ ا	victims in the windfall tax	scope for larg
·	legislation. Investors need	the regulator
	names and numbers in order	mindful of N
200	to take a sensible view of the	capital structu
ES	impact of the tax on divi-	
	dends. Unfortunately for	TT1
- 25		Hamley
- 21	Northern Ireland Electricity	_
	sharsholders the problem is	HAMT FYS 1

e operators in countries might have trouble spoton a map. C&W knows Beijing wants a bigger than the regulator's reckon-LITTES look like an ining. For shareholders, the nent dustbin until the reassurance is in NIE's debt-Chancellor identifies his free balance sheet, leaving ms in the windfall tax scope for large payouts but lation. Investors need the regulator, too, will be mindful of NIE's inefficient es and numbers in order ke a sensible view of the capital structure.

Hamleys

HAMLEYS wants to grow but its decision to buy Toy Stack, a chain of small shops in out-of-town malls, looks like a weak move in the wrong direction. The toy retailer has got one

and Mergers Commission. thing right. It is restricting which recommended more lenient treatment than the for its own Regent Street flag-NIE will appeal any ruling ship store and the airport that fails to mimic the MMC shops. Hamleys will not be recommendations, 'adding a plastered over arcades in dreary suburbs. Also, the further lengthy period of uncertainty. NIE's problem price looks sensible; Hamleys is not just buying turnover. With pre-tax profits of some £1.4 million last year on turnover of £10.5 million, is that electricity prices in the province are considerably higher than in Great Britain and the regulator wants bigcuts. However, NIE argues that its capital expenditure: the £8.7 million price is not

Stack have fallen below last year's level in the first quarter. At the same time, Hamleys itself points out, Toy Stack's overheads are set to increase because of rising rents and higher wages. As a result, and even with Hamleys' extra buying muscle. Toy Stack's margins are set to come under pressure. This will be bad news for the profit ambitions of its new

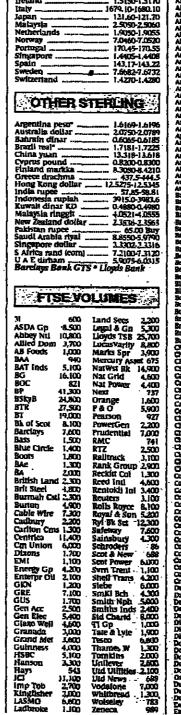
owner, which will suffer a dilution of its own profitability. ...loy retaining is not a good business to be in. The sector had a disappointing Christmas caught between a resurchildren's preference for computers and football kits. Toy Stack's outlets are too small to compete with the pile em high merchants so it is difficult to see how it helps high-price Hamleys. Even at their current low level of 306 p. Hamleys shares are unlikely to return to favour.

LIFFE	ICIS-LOR (London 6.00pm) CRUDE OILS (\$/barrel FOB) Brent Physical	GNI LONDON GRAIN FUTURES LIFFE WHEAT LIFFE BARLEY (dove £10 (dose £10)
May	Brent 15 day Juni	Man
May 1040-1039 Volume 242	PRODUCTS (\$/MT)	Volume 723 Volume 0
ROBUSTA COFFEE S) May	Spot CIF NW Europe (prompt delivery)	LIFFE POTATO (E/I) Open Close Jun 20 Nov 20 Mar 1060 Volume: 124
Reuters Mar 301,7-00.4 Sput n/a May 301 5-00.0	IPE FUTURES (GNI Lat)	RUBBER (No 1 RSS Cif p/k)
Aug 313.0-129 Aug 303.241.5	GAS OIL	LIFFE BIFFEY (GNI Ltd \$10/pt)
Oct	May 171 00-71.25 Aug . 170.00-70.25 Jun 107.75 BID Sep . 171 75-72.00 Jul 104.50-0.75 Vol: 29575 BRENT (6.00pm)	High Low Close May 97 1340 1315 1330 1340 1345 1330 1345
COMMISSION	Jun 18 77-14.50 Sep 18,78 BID	Jul 97 1210 1204 1210 Oct 97 1330 1330 1335
Average faistock prices at representative markets on May #	Jul 18.74 SLR Oct 18.80 BID Aug 19.76-18.78 Vol. 394/9	Vol: 112 lots Open Interest: 2494 Index 1275 - 3
tp/kg lw) Pig Sheep Cattle GB: 112.41 145.74 91.50	to State Division and the LONGON	MFTAL EXCHANGE Radolf Wolff
(*/-1 =2.63	(Official) (Volume prev day) LONDON Copper Gde A (Stronne) Cash: 2423 0	2424.0 Sends: 2379.0-2380.0 Vol. 1203050
197-1266 -515 1123	Lead (\$/tonne)	1309 0 1327.5-1324D (120000)
(%)	Tin (\$/tonne) 5455.0- Aluminium Hi Gde (\$/tonne) 16-8.5-	
1%1	Nickel (S/Iugne)	7685.0 7795 0-7800.0 132426
	LIFFE OPTIONS	
		
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243° 265 292° 300° 391°

The Dow was dow	vn 24.88 at	Charter) ti
7,111.74 at midday.		G	osing P	'nces i	age 4	13	<u></u>
LONDON FINANCIAL FUTURES							
	Perio	d Open	High	Low	Sett	Voi	AU
Long Gilt	Jun 9		114-24	113-30	114.07	118944	Bel
Previous open Interest: X4F German Govt Bond (114-31	114.14 101.54	114-17 101.77	3063 156304	De
Previous open Inserest, 2862	St Sep 9		101.14	100.74	100,79	MID	Fra
Italian Govt Bond (B Previous open interest 1192			129.88 129.98	128.90 129.69	129,30 129,58	6]5]3 4 94	Ho
Japanese Govt Bond	(JGB) Jun 4 Sep 4		(23.49 122.12	(23.23 21.85	123 <u>.29</u> 121.93	4928 1843	Ita Jap
Three Mth Sterling	րու գ	. 93.46	93.47	93.44	93.45	946b	Ma Ne
Previous open Interest. 499	Sep 4 lb5 Dec 9	7 . 93.23 7 - 93.05	93.24 93.09	93.20 92.04	93.21 93.05	14702 19304	Po
Three Mth Euromark Previous open linerest 14th		7 - 95.80 7 - 96.75	96.80 96.75	9 <u>⊾</u> 78 9⊳73	95.78 95.74	[[180 18630	Sin
Three Mth Eurolina	Jun 9	7 - 93.30	93.30	93.22	93.24	22634	Sw
Previous open interest 3110 Three Mth Euroyen	Sep 97 Sep 97		d3 7 0	43.54	93.56 99.10	14376	l
	Dec 4	7_ 99.86	98.86	94.85	98,85	400	<u> </u>
Three Mth Euroswiss Previous open interest: 1276			98.21 98.21	98.16 98.16	98.21 98.33	86Z8 5097	Are Au
Three Mth ECU Previous open Interest: 2342	Juner 3) Sep 4		95.82 95.84	95.81 95.82	95.82 95.82	330 174	Bar Bra
FTSE 100	Jun 9	7 4522.0	460020	4665.0	4397.0	22557	핡
Previous open interest 642	c sep u				4684.0	٥	Fla Gri Ho
, , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , ,	MONEY F	ATES	(%)				ind
B- B - G			<u> </u>			-	Ku
Base Rates: Clearing Bar Discount Market Loans	O/night high: 6	^ I	ow 5"=		Week fb	ued: 6'm	Ne Pal
Treasury Bills (Dis):Buy:			2 min 6 seth	## 3 mu الده 6		i2 mth	Sau
Prime Bank Rills (Dis):	b" or b' o	6'-6'-	6'6"	6'-	0.		SA
Sterling Money Rates: Interbank:	<i>6</i> = 6.	6'-6'e B'rb'e	tiwith tiwith	6'+ 6'+		6'=6"a. birb"b	Ba
Overnight open 6's, close Local Authority Deps:							Г
Section CDs			5% 2":-0"::	0 ′′ ⊂ €		6°4	
Doğur CDs: Building Society CDs:		n/3 6' 4-6' •	5.70 6'rô''e	621 a-t		6.14 ; 6"#6",	31 ASI
TREASURY BILLS: App Las: week (48,455 receive	ilpos: C (,930m) al Not: 73%: Avae n	lotted: £200: :te: £6. 649	n; Bids: 6 iast wi	E98.47% L E6.1834	receive	d: 14%; t week:	Abi
LCOm.	•				•	.	AB BA
EUROP	EAN MON	EY DE	POSI	FS (%	Ä		BA' BG
				·	<u> </u>		BO BP
Currency Dollar:	•		5 #2### 5"1-75"=	6 mt	h . 54	Call Set.	BS1
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BOOM OR BUST? 36

Analysts disagree over how the Dow will move

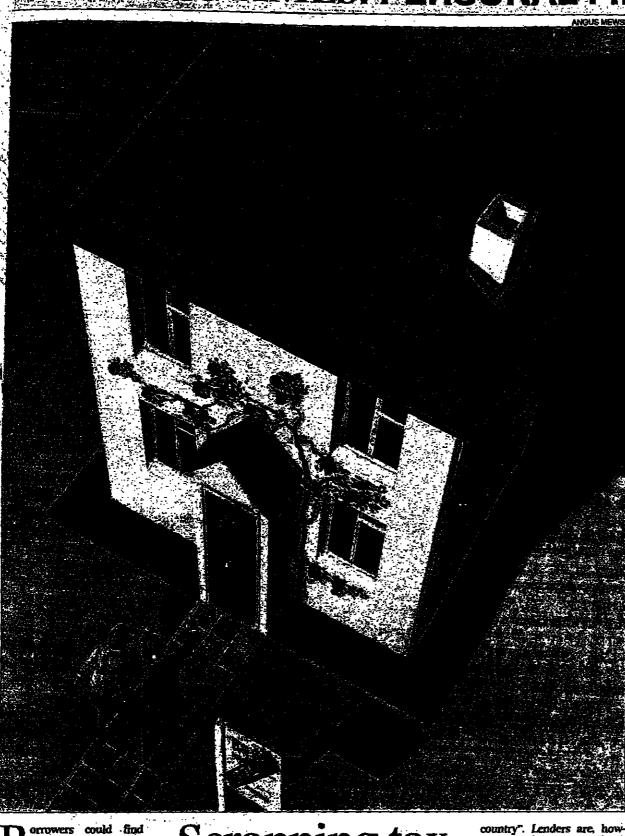
WEEKEND MONEY

HOPES DASHED 35

A divorcee paid the mortgage but missed the windfall



THE SECTIMES: PERSONAL FINANCE NEWSPAPER OF THE YEAR



themselves paying more than £500 extra a year for an average £50,000 loan if the new Labour Government abolishes tax relief on mortgage interest (Sara McConnell writes). There was no commitment

in the Government's manifesto preserve tax relief on mortgage interest (Miras), which has led to widespread speculation that the relief could be abolished sooner rather than later. Its value has been steadily eroded by a combination of government cuts and interest-rate falls, but it is still worth £28.50 a month on loan interest of £30,000. After this week's interest-rate rise, the value of Miras has risen slightly from its previous level of £27,17.

The higher mortgage rate will mean an extra £13.26 a month on mortgage bills for borrowers on the average £50,000 loan, the Halifax has

Scrapping tax relief could cost £500 per year

gage bill coupled with the removal of tax relief would cost £41.76 a month at the new rates, or £501.12 a year.

The Government may well be tempted to rid itself of Miras while interest rates are low because it would be less painful for borrowers and so less politically risky. But lenders and builders have lost no time telling Gordon Brown.

blow for a housing market whose recovery in many areas of the country is still patchy.

Roger Humber, chief executive of the House Builders' Federation, said this week that any moves to abolish Miras, or impose VAT on new housebuilding would "stop the housing market dead in its tracks through much of the

lition of Miras would be a

WEEKEND MONEY is edited by Anne Ashworth ever, remaining outwardly relaxed about the effect on the housing market of this week's quarter percentage point rise in base rates.

Large lenders including the Halifax, Abbey National, Cheltenham & Gloucester, Northern Rock and Coventry reacted swiftly by raising their standard mortgage rates by more than the amount of the base-rate rise. The Cheltenham & Gloucester, now the mortgage arm of Lloyds Bank, raised its rate by the largest margin, from 7.22 per cent to 7.6 per cent. Last year the former building society abandoned its promise that it would hold mortgage rates

Northern Rock, by contrast, pledged to continue with its newly launched variable rate of 6.09 per cent, available through its direct mortgage

lower than those of its compet-

Homebuyers find release

were the first to taste the medicine when Gordon Brown announced a quarter- point rise in base rates to 6.25 per cent on Tuesday at the same time as revealing that, henceforth, the Bank of England will be responsible

for interest-rate policy.

Lenders reacted swiftly by raising their standard variable mortgage rates by more than the base rate rise. Existing borrowers on variable rates most home buyers - will start to pay an average 7.6 per cent on their loans from June I, up from an average 7.25 per cent now. The markets are widely forecasting another quarterpoint rise before the year end.

Such forecasts have sent borrowers scurrying to the haven of some of the remaining fixed-rate offers, hoping to protect themselves against further rises. But the best offers are rapidly being withdrawn and replaced with more expensive ones, which could start looking poor value if base rates drop back over the next Homebuyers

should cap

or fix their rates, says

Sara McConnell

few years. Analysts think Mr Brown's surprise move to detach the Bank of England from political control could release homeowners from the interestrate rollercoaster they have ridden for the past ten years.

Homebuyers should take out capped-rate mortgages, rather than fixed rates, to avoid being caught out if interest rates fall again in the next few years, mortgage advisers said. Patrick Bunton, of London & Country Mortgages, the independent mortgage adviser, said: People will be more comfortable with an independent Bank of England because there will be less fear of political rises. Fixed rates look like a good deal now if people want to budget, but if they

they should get a capped rate". These protect borrowers

from rises higher than a set amount but fall in line with falls in base rates so that borrowers benefit from lower rates. Mr Bunton favours Stroud & Swindon's three-year capped rate of 7.49 per cent which has no lock-in penalty at the end of the three- year term. This means borrowers are free to go elsewhere rather than be stuck with whatever variable rate the Stroud & Swindon has to offer. John Charcol has a capped rate guaranteed not to rise above 7.99 per cent for five years, with a current standard rate of

penalty for changing lenders after five years. Charles Levett-Scrivener of Towry Law, the independent financial adviser, said prospective borrowers wanting fixed rates should wait until lenders start offering new loans whose rates reflect falls in long-term interest rates.

7.39 per cent. There is no

Winning move, page 33

Leaseholders still waiting

housands of leaseholders in dispute with their landlords over service charges are still waiting for an easier, cheaper system of redress almost a year after such a system was

promised (Sara McConnell writes).

Under the Housing Act 1996, which passed into law last July, leaseholders would be allowed to take service charge disputes to a Leasehold Valuation Tribunal (LVI) rather than the County Court. LVTs would charge a fixed fee and could not award costs, unlike courts. Only a handful of leaseholders have dared to take their cases to court, fearing that they could face large costs. Final orders giving LVTs new pow-tions to charging £500 to take a case to a LVI

but the general election intervened. Now Labour must decide whether to go ahead with LVTs or wait until it has time for more fundamental leasehold reform. Such reforms would include making it easier for leaseholders to buy freeholds and introducing a form of common-hold, allowing flatowners to own their homes individually and their block collectively.

But Hilary Armstrong, housing minister, will come under pressure to establish new LVTs to handle service charge disputes. Labour may have to abandon its previous objec-

Expect gazump reform

A spiring housebuyers do not need to be told that gazumping is back. Fierce competition for too few properties is tempting sellers to be ruthless. dumping buyers unceremoniously if a higher offer comes along.

According to a survey published this week by Barclays Bank, the mismatch of potential sellers and buyers, leading to gazumping, is most acute in the North East, where one in six people wants to wants to sell. In London's overheated market, one in seven wants to buy and one in 14 wants to sell.

Labour is pledged to combat gazumping. One of the many tasks facing Hilary Armstrong, the Housing Minister, is to analyse the results of a consultative document on anti-gazumping measures issued in February. Labour sources report a good response and said yesterday they will now spend several months considering the feedback.

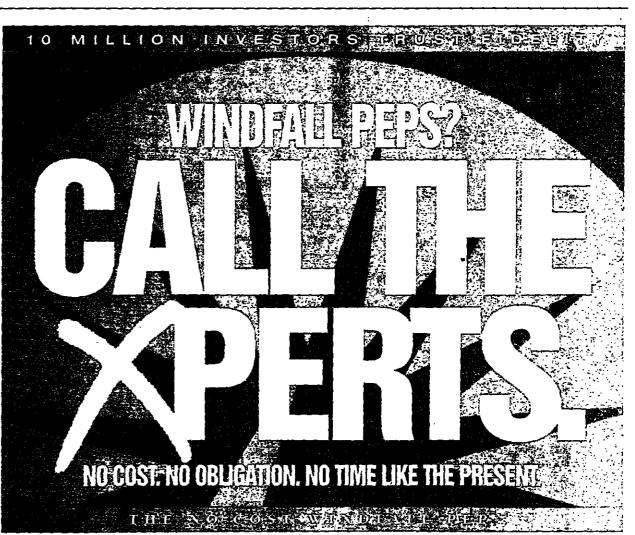
One proposal is a "costs guarantee". Buyer and seller would be liable to meet the other side's costs if either withdrew from the deal before exchange of contracts. Many buyers who are gazumped have already spent hundreds of pounds on solicitors' and ng on stellite. Ser will See of Ser No Sund:

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surveyors' fees.

The signing of such a guarantee could become compulsory. But either side would be free to withdraw for good rea-son, such as if the buyer was caught in a chain."

SARA MCCONNELL



If you're a Halifax or an Alliance & Leicester shareholder and have decided to keep your free conversion shares, you now have some key decisions to make. You'll probably want to protect them from the tax man by sheltering them inside a Personal Equity Plan (PEP).

But should you use the PEP that your building society offers you? Or should you choose a PEP from someone else? And if so, from whom? To clear the confusion maybe you should

get some help from an expert. Fidelity is the world's largest fund manager and, with over £330 billion funds under management, we are three times the size of the Halifax, Britain's biggest building society. So, we believe, there is no-one more successful than Fidelity.

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Basic truths from Borneo

Two years ago, Bre-X Minerals was a virtually worthless little company in Alberta, Canada. Today, it appears to be totally worthless. in between, it was valued at more than £3 billion, hailed as the wonder of the mining world and included in a Toronto stock market index.

The difference between nothing and everything was a gold mining prospect in the deepest Indonesian rainforests of Borneo, a hot place for prospectors but one of the most obscure places left on earth for Westerners. Rights to the Busang prospect had been bought for \$80,000 by Bre-X's unprepossessing principals, hitherto an assortment of ambitious losers. It was Bre-X's last throw. But it came up.

There was gold in them that hills. What's more, the world was told, it was contained in unusual geological circumstances that made it amazingly cheap to get out. So, as estimates of the reserves grew from three million to 200 million ounces. Bre-Xs value grew in propornon, instead of being one of many shooting stars in a galaxy of Canadian mining stocks that have had a dodgy image since the Yukon gold rush, Bre-X moved on to claim a place among the world's top mining stocks.

As we now know, Busang's place in history will actually be as the locus of the world's worst mining fraud. The gold in the hills had been put there. No doubt a few shareholders went from clogs to clogs in those two years, but many directly involved in Bre-X sensibly realised a few pennies on the way. Outsiders should have done the same.



One Quebec pension fund managed to lose £30 million, but the stock was so actively traded that most investors were in and out at varying prices. The worst losers broke every sensible rule of investing by borrowing money to buy the shares last year, when they teetered round their peak for 12 months.

Even in genuine finds, such as the Australian nickel fireworks of the 1960s. prices go far ahead of events once everyone leaps in. Enthusiasm for the mineral tends to gloss over matters such as the cost of setting up a mine, claims by all and sundry for a piece of the action, the predations of the likes of Indonesia's ruling family and the need for independents to bring in experienced partners, such as those whose "due

diligence" buried Bre-X. Relatively few UK investors were in Bre X, which makes it easy to be smug about those wild Canadians and Australians. But remember Lanica, the bubble stock that consisted only of a hare-

brained scheme to take over the Co-op. Those with long memories may also recall the El Sobrante platinum prospect in California. In 1970 it was set to transform E J Austin International, a failing British conglomerate. Like Busang. El Sobrante's value rested on local assays via a special process, which turned out to be salting the ore samples. Kenneth Howarth, chairman of E J Austin, was given a five-year jail sentence in 1975, but that did not help investors.

Honest mining is a gamble and for that reason big mining companies rely increasingly on small-time hopefuls to rospect the wilder shores. Investors looking after their retirement savings should not touch them. They are inherently high-risk, like many biotechnology and computer developments.

part from inherent high risk, they fail the test that you should be able to understand what you are investing in. The amazing profits Polly Peck reported from hush-hush operations in northern Cyprus, or the huge returns that Barings earned from derivatives operations in Singapore are often too good to be true. Gambling with money you can afford

to lose is, however, an important role of private investors. Where would AIM stocks be otherwise? There, the rule is not to be too greedy, take some profits along the way. Beware too when a penny stock's price booms so far that it acquires a big market capitalisation without any visible means of support. That is the time to sell - and avoid being stuck, when the music stops, with the next Bre-X or the next Lanica.

Karen Zagor, Caroline Merrell and Anne Ashworth on how tax changes may hit the Blairs

Tax time for the first family

The Blair family is set to see more than its surroundings change after the move into Il Downing Street. The first Budget of the new Government, which is is likely to take place in July will make the Chancellor Gordon Brown's views on family taxation clear.

The effect on the Blairs and other middle class families with above average income could be far reaching. Some of the most widely rumoured tax changes forecast to be included in the Budget could leave Blairs £10.200 worse off. This could mean Cornwall rather than Tuscany for the family holiday this summer.

There is speculation that Mr Brown will seek to cut the value of the personal allowances, the amounts individuals can earn before paying tax. He could reduce them to the 23 per cent basic rate of tax, so raising El.6 billion, says Maurice Fitzpatrick of Chantrey Vellacott, the accountant. This tax change alone would mean an extra £687 in tax each year for Mr and Mrs Blair.

There are also growing rumours that mortgage interest relief (Miras) could be phased out and that the taxrelief on private pension con-tributions could be limited to the basic rate, more tax rises that would hit the Blairs.

THE BLAIR TAX BILL

Tony Blair, as revealed on annual salary of £146,860, but



saying he will take only £102,000. He can afford this pay restraint since Cherie is the family's main breadwinner. As a high-powered QC, she is capable of earning at least £250.000 a year.

At present, Tony and Cherie like everyone else, have a personal allowance of £4,045 each. This reduces Tony's taxable earnings to £97,955 and Cherie's to £245,955.

the first £4,100 after the personal allowance is taxed at 20 per cent. the next £22,000 is taxed at 23 per cent and any further earnings are taxed at 40 per cent. This results in a tax bill of E34.622.

Sarah Powell, tax consultant at KPMG, the accountant, said that if Cherie contributes the maximum permitted able liabilities will be £73,822.

butions deplete Tony's takehome pay by a further £2,160.08. Cherie would pay self-employed National Insurance of £1,344.80.

The Blair family's considerable tax burden is offset somewhat by a number of standard reliefs. Provided a couple is married, one person can claim the married coupstands at £274.50 (15 per cent of £1,830). Child benefit of £11.05 a week for the eldest and £9 for each subsequent account by E1,510.60 a year.

Miras, given at the rate of 15 per cent on the first £30,000 of loans shaves another £326.25 off the annual tax bill, assuming interest rates of 7.25 per cent per annum.

Assuming that Mr Brown moves, as forecasted, to cut back personal allowances and

child boosts Cherie's bank poorer, £10,200 poorer to be exact. Mr Fitzpatrick calculates that Tony would lose £1,013 and Cheric some £9,187. She may be forced to go next door and personally lobby the Chancellor to give tax breaks on childcare - a con-

cession available to high-earn-

ing Canadian mothers but not

O ordon Brown has But many of the UK's pledged not to raise biggest pension schemes the income tax rates from have voiced their oppositheir current level of 23 per . cent (basic rate) and 40 per cent (higher rate). But as well as reducing the value of the personal allowances (see left), he could take other measures that would dent your spending power. The likely changes are now the subject of fevered speculation in the offices of accountants and financial advisers. The forecast

changes include: ■ The reform of Capital Gains Tax. At present, everyone can have £6,500 a year worth of capital gains cfore paying tax. The new Government could reduce the annual exemption, and introduce tiered rates, allowing those who have held assets for a period of time to pay lower rates of tax.

Beside limiting the reheis on pension contributions, Mr Brown could cut the rate of Advanced Corporation Tax, so reducing the return on your pension fund and personal equity.

as pensions and Peps can reclaim 20 per cent of the Advanced Corporation Tax. paid by companies on their dividends, so boosting their income. A lower rate of the tax would cause their income to drop.

Mr Brown could raise £5 billion by the abolition of Advanced Corporation Tax.

But many of the UK's tion to any such move. Labour, while in opposi-

tion pledged many times

that it would not abolish Peps or Tax Exempt Spe-(Tessas) if it came to power. However, it is possible that a lifetime limit could be imposed on the amount invested in Tessas and Peps, as Labour prepares to launch its own stakeholder account. For Tessa best buys, see page 40. BESt Investment (0171-321 0100) also provides lists of Pep

best buys.

E Some £2.5 billion could be raised by an increase in insurance premium tax from 4 per cent to 12.5 per cent. This would cost the average household an extra £90 a year, more if you live in a high crime area with expensive household premiums. Chancellors feel safe raising insurance premium tax because policyholders tend to blame the insurance companies for their higher bills, not the

■ The Blairs and other inhabitants of expensive homes could be affected by a new higher band of coun-cil tax for homes worth more than £500,000. Band H currently covers homes valued from £320,000.

ANNE ASHWORTH AND CAROLINE MERRELL

The Personal Investment Authority has been forced to don its overalls and give the market in traded endowments a thorough MoT. amid fears that the trade in second-hand policies is fast developing the worst traits

of the trade in second-hand cars. Central to the concerns is the lack of clear information for both investors surrendering policies and those buying them in the secondary market. The fear is that while the first group is not getting paid enough the latter is paying too much for investment performance that might not be there. To push the car analogy further, sellers of Rolls-Royces are getting Skoda prices while buyers of

Ferraris are getting Robin Reliants. Every year about 60,000 people decide to stop paying into endowment policies because they have changed their mortgage, or because they desperately need the money to pay off debts when they are made redundant or as part of a divorce settlement. Many sell the policies back to the life and insurance companies that issued them and get a raw deal. Although companies have raised surrender values

For sale: used policy, not such a nice runner

by 30 per cent in recent years, they are still about 15 per cent less than those available from market-makers such as Beale Dobie, Securitised Endowment Contracts and Policy Portfolio. As the average endowment sold is worth £10,000, this is a potential loss of at least £1,000 per person.

Market-makers offer particularly good deals on endowments from companies such as Royal Life and SunLife of Canada, which pay low surrender values to keep as much money as possible for people who hold their policies until maturity. Of course, like all middle men, marketmakers take their cut, and are choosy about the policies they take on. Beale Dobie, for instance, only buys policies worth at least £2,000 which have run for at least seven years - this is only 10 per cent of available policies. If you have to surrender early you will probably have to accept the price offered by the issuer. The Association of Policy Market Makers, their trade body, wants endowment providers to publicise their market. It points to the fact that although the traded endowment policy (Tep) market has grown rapidly from nothing to nearly 1250 million in just ten years, it is still a fraction of the £800 million of policies surrendered each year.

However, many life and insurance companies believe publicising the market will only encourage people to act against their own interest. Wherever they sell, policyholders are not going to gain much compared with the price of the premiums they have already paid. Sticking with the endowment is better in the long run. Companies also fear that the Tep is overvaluing policies and will create many disgruntled investors in the long term. The Tep market has recently displayed worrying signs of overheating. Specialist trusts run by BZW, Kleinwort

Benson and Scottish Value Management, which invest in Teps, have seen their share prices rise to a premium — a highly unusual feat for investment trusts where huge discounts are the norm.

ore disturbingly, part of the been laid at the door of unscrupulous providers of geared endowment plans. Here investors are encouraged to use the Tep as collateral with which to borrow money from a bank in order to buy more Teps. In this way £10,000 can buy three times that in policies, pushing potential annual capital growth up to 16 per cent. The inherent risk of this is exacerbated by the fact that some providers are believed to be charging investors almost double what the policies are really worth. Despite this, Teps are attractive because they can be an efficient and relatively low risk way of

timing a tax-free lump sum when you want it. Taking on somebody else's endowment and paying the premiums until maturity can be particularly useful when planning school and university fees. Traditional with-profit endowment policies - which form the backbone of the Tep market - smooth the returns from a diverse bag of assets which includes shares, property and cash. Last year they achieved an annual average

return of 9 per cent. The price of a Tep is determined by various factors, including the length the policy has yet to run and the basic guaranteed sum it will pay at the end. However, unknown factors, such as the performance of the underlying investments and the amount that the issuer will pay in bonuses, are critical. Life insurance companies have steadily cut bonuses since the end of the 1980s as inflation has come down. David Beale, of Beale

Dobie, says the annual real rate of return from Teps will fall slightly from 9 per cent over the next year.

How much of this is known to

investors is unsure. Many mistakenly take the average discount rate that market makers use in their calculations as a projection of future growth; it is not.

Faced with the different demands of sellers and buyers, the PIA has a difficult balancing act. Richard Cockroft, the regulator's head of market practice, says There are two parties in any market, the

buyer and seller.

"If we take action to improve the situation for one it could harm the interests of the other." Nevertheless, he is considering proposals to provide Tep investors with an explanatory key features document at the point of sale. This would michael growth projections and the effect of tranges and market makers fees and would put them on an equal footing with buyers of new endowments. Expect this one to roll out of the PIA workshop at the end of the year.

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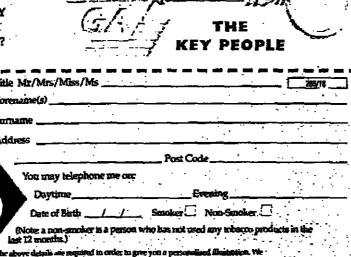
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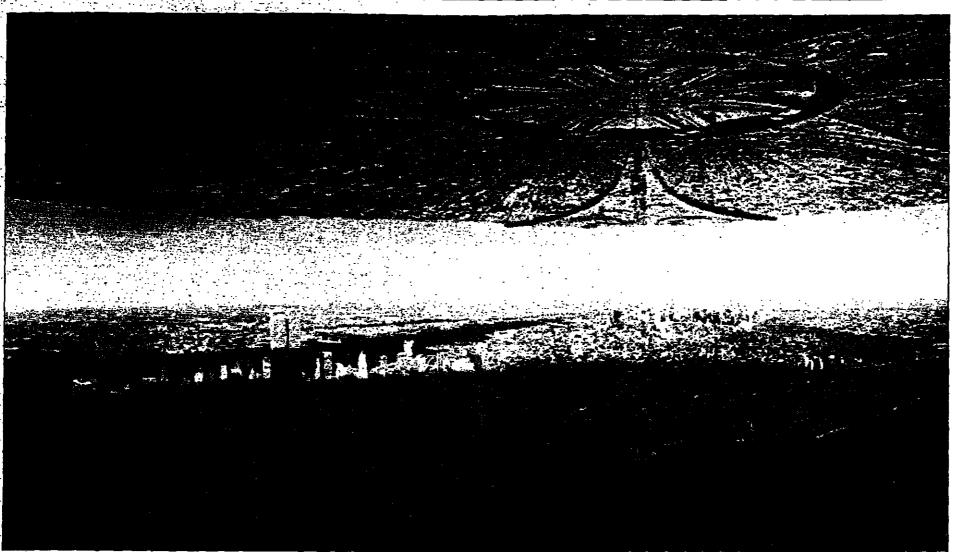


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Caroline Merrell on the positive impact of the Chancellor's first actions



The world was under alien threat in the film Independence Day but savers could benefit from this week's move to grant the Bank of England independence to set interest rates

A winning move for savers

alifax Building So-ciety has much to thank Gordon Brown for. The immediate 0.25 point increase in base rates and the Chancellor's move to grant the Bank of England independence gave the Halifax the excuse it need-

on the Market Market

ed to raise its savings rates.

The savings world is full of rumours that the newly quoted Alliance & Leicester is seeing customers decamp to seek better returns. The Halifax is more than eager to keep

its savers after flotation. Since the announcement of the society's flotation more than two-and-a-half years ago, its 15 million savers have seen interest rates dwindle. Its instant access account for instance, now pays interest of 245 per cent on balances of £1,000. This is half the rate accounts. Sainsbury's offers 5.75 per cent, Skipton Building Society offers 4 per cent, and Portman Building Society offers 4.7 per cent. Even if the Halifax increases savings rates by 0.35 points, bringing the instant access rate to 2.8 per cent, a saver with £10,000 will get only £35 a year extra interest. This looks even more miserly compared with inflation of 2.6 per cent, giving real returns of just 0.2 per cent.

The increase in savings rates will come just before the Halifax makes its stock market debut. The flotation is sure to lead many of its savers into trying to find a more lucrative

home for their savings.
The Halifax is refusing to say how much it intends to increase its rates. However, even if rate on its instant access account moves to 2.8. per cent, this rate is still lower than its competitors.

SAVINGS: Abbey National also announced that it

rates. Currently, Abbey offers its instant access savers a rate of 25 per cent. Skipton and Bradford & Bingley, both of which offer competitive sav-ings rates, also said they intend to push up savings rates.

Nationwide, the UK's second-biggest building society. said that it was taking a waitand-see attitude to rates. Its instant access account, for instance, offers an interest rate of 3 per cent on balances of £1,000. This society, along with the other mutuals, such as Bradford & Bingley, Skipton and Portman, has pledged that it will offer the

best savings rates. Bristol & West, which is in the process of being taken over by the Bank of Ireland, was the first to increase savings rates. It put up the rates on its tracker bond to 6.05 per cent. to increase rates on the rest of its savings accounts shortly.

Other savings and income products have yet to benefit from the 0.25 per cent rise in interest rates. National Savings, which offers a range of fixed-interest products, with rates of up to 7 per cent on its 3rd Series Pensioners Bond, said that it had no intention of changing rates.

EGILTS AND BONDS: Other winners following the Chancellor's move are those who hold gilts and corporate bonds, either directly or through a personal equity plan-(Pep). Many foreign investors and UK pension funds bought longer-dated gilts im-mediately after the announce-ment of an independent Bank. Gilt buyers believed that taking the politics out of interest rate decisions would be better

for inflation. The Bank of England is more likely than the Government to increase interest rates immediately to control infla-

tion. Lower inflation means that gilts will maintain their value over the longer term. The rise in the price of gilts immediately led to a drop in the yield. Theodora Zemek. manager of M&G's fixedinterest trusts, said: "We saw the yields on five-year gilts drop to 7 per cent from 7.75 per cent immediately following the announcement. It was an acknowledgement that the market welcomed the fact the bank was now free to pursue

its own interest rates policy." Ms Zemek believes that there could still be some further rises in the prices of longer-term gilts. She said:
"UK gilts are still looking
cheap compared to the fixed interest securities offered by other European governments. such as Spain and Germany."

independent financial adviser. said: "An independent Bank will mean that inflation will stay down, which is why the longer-term gilts immediately jumped in price. Shorter-dated gilts lost some value because of the increase in interest rates. They lost some of their comnetitive advantage over cash deposits offered by banks and

building societies." He advised investors hoping to put money into gifts to look at the longer-term products. He said: "I would look at the longer end of the gilt market quite seriously. If you are taking a long-term view, you could well see the trend of rising prices continue. It has definitely been set in motion, yields will fall and capital values will rise. However, any buying of longer-term gilts should be approached with caution."

CORPORATE BONDS: Corporate bond Peps have also done well out of the Chancellor's move. The yields on corporate bonds are linked to the yields on gilts. Corporate bonds are fixed-interest securities issued by companies such as ICI and Commercial Union. They will tend to have a higher yield because they are

deemed to be riskier than gilts. Some corporate bond Peps jumped as much as 3 per cent in value at the beginning of the week after the announcement. Those Peps that did best were those with a high proportion of their investment held in gilts and corporate bonds. Other corporate bond Peps, holding a high proportion in convertible and preference shares, and UK equities did not experience the same sort of increase. Mr Cockerill said an independent Bank was bound to make interest rates more

with more alacrity to ease inflationary pressures.

He said: An independent Bank is almost a trial run for monetary union. It will have a knock-on effect to our approach. The Bank must read inflation changes correctly more movement, less pressure to keep interest rates down. It



Put pensions on pole position

audacious. John Denham and Frank Field, the two ministers now responsible for pensions, should prove themselves as bold in their reforms. They must encourage the nation to make pension saving a priority. Their aim will be accomplished when 25-year-olds show as much interest in pensions, as in cars, discussing the relative merits of Equitable Life and NPI, in the sam

that they now compare the Mazda MX5 and the Golf VR6. But Messrs Denham and Field should not concentrate all their efforts on ensuring that the young invest enough for the day when the Mazda makes way for the Metro. They should also consider persons close to retirement who can face as many tricky pension decisions as those in their

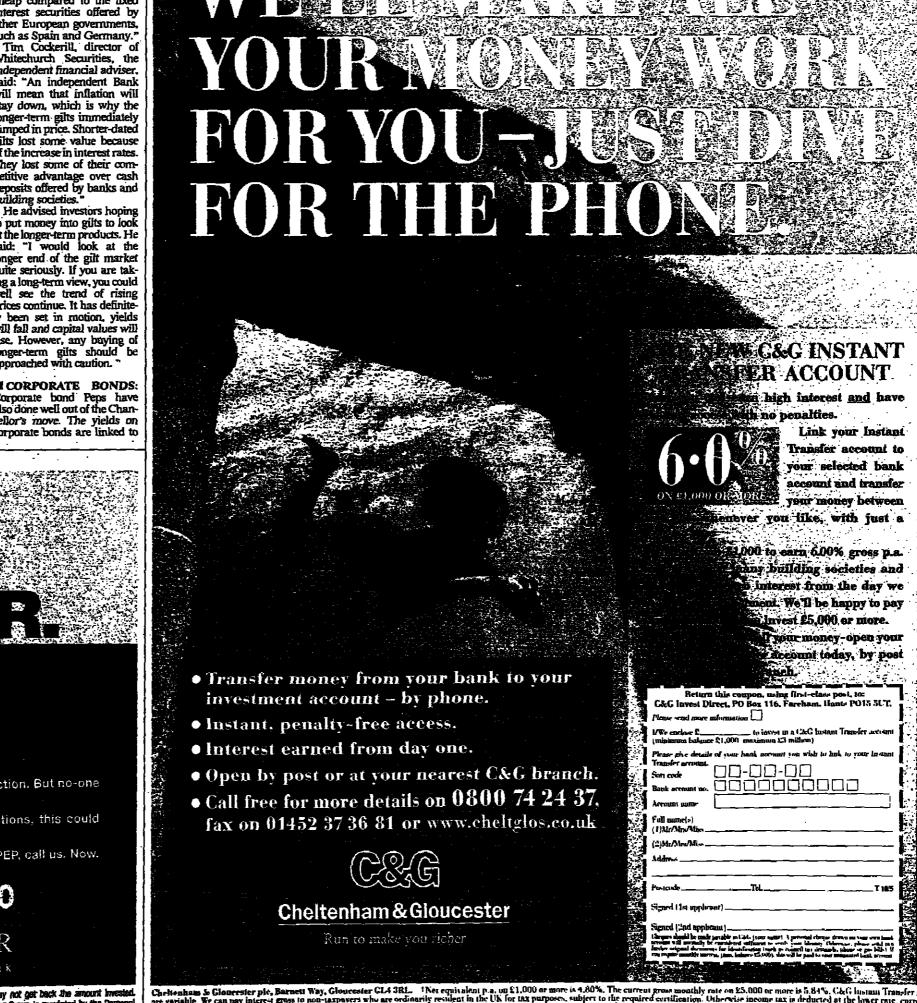
To date, those pronouncing on pensions have failed to emphasise that choosing the annuity from which your pension will be paid can be as fraught with risk as selecting a personal pension. Most choose the annuity offered by the insurance company which has invested their pension contributions, unaware that they are free to seek quotes from competitors, with potentially more generous rates. The difference between offers may be as much as 10 per cent, or the Metro's annual running costs.

Most are also ignorant of the importance of good timing. of how annuity rates depend on the moods of the gilts market. This week, annuity rates have fallen, as gilt prices rose (see page 39). Unfortunate annuitants who opted to retire in early May rather than in late April have seen a drop of 6 per cent in their expected income.

Various small changes could make the E4 billion annuity market less impenetrable. For example, insurance companies should be obliged to make it more clear to customers that they have a choice and can purchase their annuity elsewhere. Some believe that companies should also be compelled to reveal how their rates compare with those of competitors. What point the ideal pension fund if your pension is poor?

Best-buy bound

The Nationwide is said to be attracting as much as half a million pounds a day in deposits from the newly quoted Alliance & Leicester. Halifax savers of an indolent turn can now relax. When their society floats, they will have no need to go to the bother of moving their money for a better rate. Rather than see millions decamp to mutuals, the Halifax will be forced, however reluctantly, to improve significantly its parsimonious rates and to appear for the first time on the savers' best buy tables.



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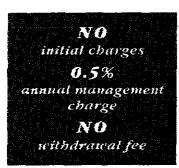
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Marianne Curphey on decision day for Norwich policyholders



To sell or not to sell

T orwich Union policyholders have just five weeks to decide whether they wish to sell or keep the free shares they will be allocated in the

insurer's flotation. The company this week named the date of trading as June 16, three months and 200 years since the mutual was established in East Anglia. It will join the FT-SE 100 and All-share indices on September 22 and will be valued at about £5 billion. The large index-tracking funds will want to include it in their portfolios, and analysts believe this will create extra demand for shares. Several international insurers are believed to be looking at bidding for NU after flotation, and would have to pay a 25 per

cent premium in any takeover.

More than 2.9 million qualifying members will have the opportunity to trade in 1.3 billion free shares from June 16 and have until June 10 to decide whether to buy more at a discount. Justin Urquhart Stewart, of Barclays Stockbrokers, believes the shares are "a good long-term buy". He added: "With the expected changes in nensions legislation, this is one of the golden stocks to hold and the yield on the shares is likely to be attractive."

Jeremy Batstone, of NatWest Stockbrokers, described the NU offer as "a fantastic buying opportunity" and said NU was not highly rated compared with other insurance stocks currently on the market.

Qualifying policyholders stand to gain an average 300 and 400 shares worth between 220p and 265p with an initial estimated value of between between £660

and £1,060. However, since the price was published in a policyholders' circular in March the market has risen strongly and most analysts forecast trading will begin

at the top of that price range.

About 1.3 million with-profit policyholders will net an average of £800 worth of free shares. They will receive a minimum of 300 shares with additional shares based on the value and duration of their policies as at October 1, 1996.

A further million non-profit policyholders will receive a fixed allocation of 150 shares worth between £330 and £400.

The opening share price is likely to be buoyed up by a rising market, a shortage of demand and rumours of a hostile bidder waiting to pounce after flotation. The only dampener on the first day of trading could be Labour's imminent mini-Budget, which could contain changes to tax and pension laws.

leinwort Benson, NU's advisers, said a revised forecast of the NU Interest included the included in a mini-prospectus to be sent to members on May 21. That date will also mark the beginning of a book-building exercise for institutions, which will be offered a proportion of the £1.75 billion

Existing NU members will be able to buy the shares at a discount, the size of which will be announced on May 21. Members need to return their application forms with payment by June 10. The minimum application for members is £400

and the maximum application for members is £100,000. The minimum appli-cation for non-members is £1,000. Nonmembers will be able to apply for shares under the retail offer but will not be eligible for a discount. Registrants will be

sent a mini-prospectus on May 21.
A Norwich Union single company personal equity plan is being set up. There will be no initial charge, and for plans opened within 42 days of flotation, the first year's annual management fee will be waived.

The new company aims to raise £1.75 billion of fresh capital through an offer of new shares to members, institutions and other investors. Of this, £1.5 billion will be paid into the with-profit fund of NU's main UK life company. Institutional investors will be invited to bid for blocks of NU shares

About 1,000 tonnes of paper will be mailed to policyholders between now and the first day of dealing, compared with the 5,000 tonnes for the Halifax float. Eligible UK residents who wish to receive further details on the NU single company Pep can call 0345 573831. Non-members can register by calling 0541 578578.

For more information on the Norwich Union members offer and public offer, for policies issued in the UK, Jersey, Guernsey or the Isle of Man, there is a helpline on 0645 444818 or 44 541 501020 if you are outside the UK. For policies issued in Ireland members can call 1 850 334444 or if they are calling from outside Ireland 44

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Serve your term — or pay deposit accounts. But if you try The marketing material those insurance companies that

for with-profits bonds is characteristically festooned with the sort of jargon for which the life insurance industry is famous. The product particulars are littered with terms like market value adjuster, reversionary and terminal bonus strategy and allocation rate. Yet despite the opacity of the literature, millions of investors have put billion of pounds in to with-profits bonds, rival-ling the sums invested in unit

The planned flotation of Norwich Union has increased interest in these schemes, as thousands flock to buy bonds from

Address

wild the second of the second

appear to be the next most likely to float. Bonds from Friends Provident, Scottish Provident and NPI have become increasingly popular in the past few months. So popular for NPI, in

to withdraw your cash before the term ends, you may suffer an exit penalty. The terms of the bond may also allow the insurer to reduce your payout if markets fall, although, in prin-

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fact, that it has temporarily withdrawn from the market. The popularity of with-profits bonds does not mean their advantages and disadvantages are any better understood. The tax-free income on offer compares well with building society

ciple, once added, bonuses should not be taken away. We

Q bonds? vestment products sold

answer your questions. What are with profits They are unit-linked in-

marketed by independent fi-nancial advisers. You will not get a tax-free lump sum at maturity, but you can take income tax-free (see below). However, James Higgins, of Chamberlain de Broe, the financial adviser, says changes to the taxation of investment products in the Budget may affect these bonds.

O How do with profits bonds work? A with-profits bond is

A winn-prome simply a life insurance bond that attracts annual bonuses, which once given cannot be taken away. These are currently running at between 6.5 and 7.5 per cent, depending on the company offering the bond. Investors can withdraw income monthly. Some will also offer the possibility of an extra terminal bonus when the bond is cashed in. A long-term view is crucial. Five years should be the minimum in vestment time.

invested in?

With-profits bonds invest in a mixture of gilts and equities. The gilts will provide the cash for those who need an income. The equity investment should ensure that the capital investment will not reduce too much.

How are the bonds Q How taxed?

Bonds are taxed as life insurance products. This means that the fund is taxed. not the income or the cash-in value of the bond. Basic-rate taxpayers and lower-rate taxpayers can take the income tax-free. Higher-rate taxpayers will have to pay some tax on the income taken, but some will be tax-free. Up to 5 per cent of the value of the bond can be withdrawn tax free

How does uren ifion compare with personal equity plans?

Peps are free from both A Peps are tree trous income and capital gains tax. This makes them more tax-efficient than with-profits bonds. Unlike a general Pep, it is possible to invest more than £6,000 a year in a bond.

How do the bonds dif-fer from distribution bonds and guaranteed income bonds?

A Distribution bonds are not based on a withprofits fund. They will distribute income on a monthly or six-monthly basis. Guaranteed income bonds pay guaranteed levels of income for five years. The return of capital is

CAROLINE MERRELL

Divorcee's Halifax hopes are dashed

days away, there is a growing those who feel themselves to have been deprived of benefiting from the £12 billion share:

A new disenfranchised group has emerged: divorced borrowers who have paid their mortgages faithfully but will not benefit because their former spouses remain the first name on the loan. Under the rules of all conversions, only the first-named account-holder is entitled to a payout Among those affected by this ruling is Frances Russell a Times reader from Eating, west Loudon, who has now remarried after divorce from

her first husband. Although Mrs Russell has been solely responsible for the payments on her Halifax loan, taken out four years ago, she will not receive the basic distribution of shares because her former spouse was the first-named accountholder. The entitlement to a payout has now been entirely lost because he has now taken out a new loan with another lender. However, Mrs Russell does not gain the right to a payout, because she was not the first-named holder on the all-important qualifying date of November 25, 1994.

Mrs Russell said: "In June 1993. I took out a Halifax mortgage with my first husband. But, as we parted before we could begin living

■ HALIFAX: customers who are bor-

rowers only are entitled to the basic

distribution of 200 shares. At the minimum "floor" price of 415p, these

will be worth £830. But analysts now

estimate that the price could soar to

more than 600p. A Halifax borrower

will receive the basic distribution if he

or she was the sole or first-named

mortgage account with a total debt

31. 1996. The horrower must remain



The spouse left

paying the

mortgage may still miss the

windfall, says Lizanne Rose

with my son, Franklin, who is now ten, and paid the mort-gage myself from the beginning Even though I was managing very well by my-self, the Halifax would not allow me to transfer the property into my sole name as they considered that I did not

She was surprised to discover that, had her first husband taken out a mortgage with the Halifax immediately after having his name removed from the joint mortgage, he would have been entitled to free shares.

When Mrs Russell wrote to challenge the decision, the Halifax replied that although the ruling did "produce win-



Double whammy: Frances Russell lost both husband and shares

ners and losers, there was no practicable alternative". However, Mrs Russell feels that this does not answer her question nor address her specific case. "I find it difficult to

believe that the building society can just elect to treat borrowing members in an unequal way," she said, "This has made me feel very much

shares, worth an estimated £1,125, according to analysts, if they are the sole or first-named holder of a mortgage account, with a debt of at least £100 outstanding at midnight on December 31, 1995. Borrowers must remain with the society until midnight on July 6 (conversion is expected to be on July 7).

with the Halifax until midnight on the day before conversion on June 2. WOOLWICH: borrowers will qualify for the basic distribution of 450

account holder with a debt outstanding of at least £1 at midnight on April 2, 1996, December 31, 1996 and on the final qualifying date to be announced.

■ BRISTOL & WEST: borrowers fare less well than their counterparts at other societies, receiving 250 B&W preference shares. What these will be worth is uncertain. Borrowers will qualify if they were the first-named mortgage account holder between December 31, 1996 and April 15, 1997, with an outstanding debt of at least £100 at December 31, 1996. They must owe a minimum of £100 both on June 15, 1997 and on the day before the conversion date, expected to be July 28, 1997.

outstanding of at least £100 at midnight on November 25, 1994 and December ■ NORTHERN ROCK: all qualifying Northern Rock savers and borrowers will receive an equal distribution of 500 shares. In order to qualify, borrowers



Hard lesson in small print

ead the small print of literature from convert-Ning building societies and be wary of the advice you get from its Helpline is the message from disgrantled reader John Edwards. He claims he missed out on 981 free Halifax shares; worth £4,000, because of bad advice from the society.

Whether Mr Edwards was actually misled by the society is a subject of debate. After discussing the matter with Mr Edwards, the Halifax has decided that it is not culpable, so last week Mr Edwards filed a county court summons for restitution. Whatever the outcome, members of any society changing its status would do well to keep the circumstances

The dispute centres on the dates Mr Edwards needed to have at least £100 in a qualifying account to be eligible for the free shares. According to Mr Edwards, "I phoned the Halifax Helpline at the end of November last year because I was not quite sure what I needed to do to get the free shares.

"At the time I had £1,550 in my Halifax current account. I knew it was not a qualifying account and wanted to know the dates so that I could

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John Edwards and the Halifax accounts which he claims have cost him £4,000

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"I was told that the money needed to be in my account in February 1997, but that the date had yet to be announced. As a result of this advice, my qualifying building society ac-count did not have the required £100 on December 31 1996, which was one of the qualifying dates for shares.

"The criteria for qualifying Mr Edwards is particularly were not absolutely clear. For example, the timetable in the outraged because he had more than enough money sitting in booklet sent to members did a non-qualifying account to top up his qualifying account not mention the December 31 date. That date only appeared to the minimum £100. on page 21. Unfortunately I Mr Edwards says he still

rang the Helpline before I got has the notes he made during to page 21 and, when I was told the Helpline conversation and the important date to top up that he even has a witness, a friend who heard the conver-sation and saw him write the the account was in February, I did not continue reading." notes, but the Halifax does not believe this is sufficient evidence to support his claim of

misinformation. "Unfortunately we don't record Helpline calls so we cannot comment on what was actually said," says a spokeswoman. "It is possible that Mr Edwards asked about the date he needed to top up his balance to receive the maximum number of shares, and that would have been

February. Mr Edwards has been through our complaints procedure here and his case has been investigated. If he is not satisfied he is at liberty to go to the Ombudsman." The society notes that Mr Edwards would have received correspondence spelling out the need to top up the account in December. "We will deal with the writ as and when it comes through," the

spokeswoman said. Meanwhile, for building society members expecting to receive a windfall, the moral is clear. Do not rely on what you hear, or think you hear, from the Helpline. Instead, read all the literature from the society and keep the minimum amount necessary to qualify in

KAREN ZAGOR

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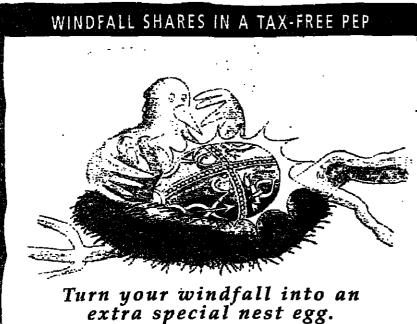
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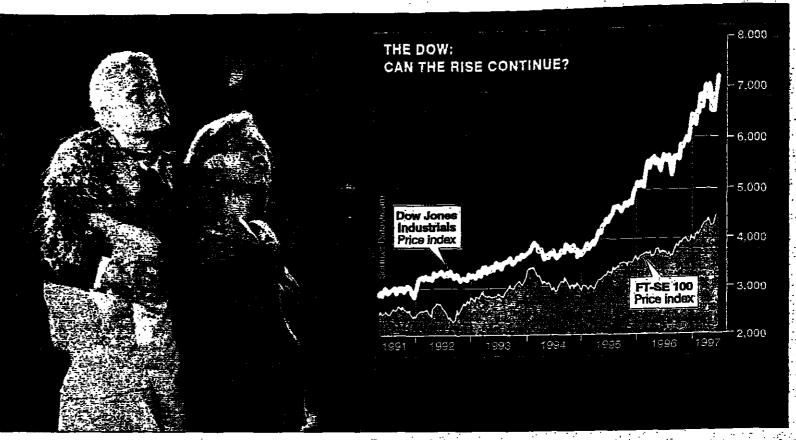
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Boom or bust with the Dow?

an unprecedented six-year surge. This week the Dow Jones industrial average peaked at a record 7,214.49 points, more than 4,000 points up on its level in May 1991.

For investors, selling now would be a brave choice. It could also be the best one. In spite of excellent economic performance figures, underlying trends mean that many analysts and fund managers are gearing up for at best a slowdown and, at worst, a crash.

In the first quarter of this year, US GDP growth was at a rapid 5.6 per cent, but inflation remained low at 2.7 per cent. The picture resembles the much-coveted "Goldilocks economy," not too hot and not too cold, like the fairy tale heroine's porridge. But some analysts are unimpressed. George Magnus of UBS says: The US equity market is on dangerous ground. We predict that the Dow Jones will sink to 6,500 points by year end, and the further it climbs meantime, the more likely there will be a crash. A correction of 10 per cent is highly probable."

Mr Magnus believes that the US market is at the top of the business cycle. Strong growth has boosted demand for labour, goods and services, which will soon outstrip supply.
Wages and prices will rise, and the

only way to control inflation will be to raise interest rates. The Federal Reserve. America's central bank, could decide to increase rates as early as May

Experts are divided over which way the US stock market will go, says Nathan Yates

high enough, a market fall will follow. UBS claims that this top-of-cycle scenario is being obscured by several factors. Foremost among these is a freak worldwide situation in which the

three main trading blocks - the US, Europe and Japan — have moved out of synchronisation. German reunification has upset the business cycle in Europe, and Japan has been hit by a collapse in property prices. With the other two main economic powers in relative recession, US growth has been offset by weaker demand elsewhere, and prices have been held down. UBS says that the three

trading blocks are beginning to converge again as Europe and Japan recover. The IMF forecasts world growth will accelerate to 4 per cent in 1997 and 1998, and the international brakes could soon be removed from US prices. In addition, US wages have been held down by job insecurity.

But with unemployment now at 4.9 per cent of the population, the lowest for a generation, those who lose their jobs can expect to find new work quickly. Worker confidence is growing, and figures released this week show a 4.7 per cent leap in hourly pay, the largest increase for five years. Some of by improvements in productivity. Though US workers may be paid more, they produce more goods per hour than they did before the boom, and this has kept down the total costs of producing an item. But there is a logical limit on how far efficiency can be improved with current technology, and productivity could also be about to hit the ceiling.

t is the combination of underlying factors that has persuaded many UK fund managers to stay clear of the US market. Gartmore, Fidelity and Save & Prosper are all low on US

We are underweight in US stocks, and we share that position with the majority of UK investment houses," said Michael Ashbridge of Save & Prosper. Valuation in the US market is very stretched. We are particularly worried about the huge investment in US mutual funds. This money is very liquid, and in the worst scenario it could all be withdrawn quickly."

Fund managers admit that their

underweight position in US stocks has meant a loss in profits as Wall Street has proved as miraculously immune to its detractors as Bill Clinton's Presidenabout American prospects. A report this week by the irrepressibly bullish Abby Cohen of Goldman Sachs claims that US economic conditions are highly favourable.

It forecasts that equity prices could even rise a further 25 per cent if the possible reduction in capital gains tax takes place, and long-term investors can look forward to a surge in entitlements spending when the babyboom generation begins to retire. But Goldman Sachs concedes that future returns are likely to be considerably lower than over the past six years. In its opinion, American stocks are at "fair"

Warren Buffett, head of Berkshire Hathaway and known to his followers as the "sage of Omaha", also gave warning this week that returns on equities in the next ten years will be significantly lower than during the

It could be time to seek better value in European or Asian markets. Then again, some analysts have been saying this since 1995, and investors who followed their advice have lost out to a spectacular degree.

If you decide that the US boom still

has some years to run, analysts' collective fund tips include Credit Suisse Transatlantic, Gartmore American Emerging Markets, Perpetual American Growth, US Smaller Companies Investment Trust, Schroder US Smaller Companies and Perpetual

Bold moves spur stocks and bonds

ment's first week has been characterised by bold political decisions, unprecedented stock market highs, and bullish bond markets in marked contrast to the uncertainty and volatility of the past two months.

The FT-SE 100 index hit record highs throughout the reek, driven by Chancellor Gordon Brown's decision to hand over monetary policy to the Bank of England after his first and last base rate increase of 0.25 per cent.

Although the rate rise was expected, the Bank decision was not Financial shares powered the stock market surge on the surprise news. with the FT-SE 100 index ending the week 175.3 points up at 4.630.9, despite continued volatility on Wall Street.

The market was cheered by the Government's clear intention to keep a tight rein on inflation. The news was especially welcomed by the bond markets - as this column predicted it would be several weeks ago — with benchmark ten-vear eilts risine more than two points to 10i.188, while yields fell from 7.37 per cent to 7.09 per cent. The friendly signals towards Europe from Robin Cook, the Foreign Secretary, are also music to the bond markets' ears.

Bob Semple, market strate-gist at NatWest Securities, the stockbroker, said: "New Lahour is proving to be just that. We have seen them embrac-



proving true to their word. They are even showing themselves, in the case of the Bank of England decision, to be bolder than the Conservatives. Now we wait to see what they do in the Budget."

Banks continued to thrive all week. Notably, HSBC, which owns Midland Bank and James Capel, the broker, leapt 8712p to £17.2512 on Thursday the back of a positive turnround in the Hong Kong market on Wednesday. There renewed optimism that China will adopt a laisserfaire attitude towards the colony's free market after next month's handover. Abbey National, NatWest.

Lloyds TSB and Barclays all performed strongly, as did newcomer Alliance & Leicester. And with the Halifax Building Society's £10 billion flotation just three weeks away, banks are likely to remain in the spotlight. But John Aitken, banking

analyst at UBS, the broker, said: "Irrespective of the Bank of England decision, there is the general shortage of bank sector stock which is driving prices up. The building society flotations are making intitutions realise that they have to increase weightings in what is the biggest stock market sector, so there is competition for the stock and not enough to go round."

The theory is that with the Bank of England in control. long-term interest rates should come down once inflation is well and truly pegged. Low interest rates are generally good for equities. Wednesday's news that

BSkyB was forming an alliance with BT. Midland Bank and Matsushita, to develop an interactive digital television network helped to push its share price up 512p to 601p. And the news that ICI is boying Unilever's speciality billion helped to push the stock up 43p to 75712p on Wednesday after a prolonged period of underperformance. But sterling's strength, now

underpinned by this week's hase rate rise, will continue to cause difficulties for companies such as BTR, the diversitied industrial. Its shares fell-14 per cent after a second profit warning within a year. Else-where, retail sales figures from the CBI this

showed a positive balance of 42 per cent of retailers reporting annual growth compared with 32 per cent a year ago. Furniture and carpet retailers, DIY stores and clothing shops all reported improved sales,

· led economic recovery, dominated so far by the services sector, is filtering through at last to the retail sector.

MATTHEW WALL

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Sara McConnell on the problem of maximising retirement income



Potatoes ma'am or potatoes? Choosing between a pension, a Pep or a Tessa can prove just as difficult

When the time comes to choose

retirement savings into a pension? Or would you do just as well putting the contributions into a personal equity plan or other savings

One thing is certain. Doing nothing to save towards your retirement will no longer be an option unless you are prepared to live from hand to mouth. Politicians from all sides of the spectrum made it clear during the election campaign that people will be expected to supplement the basic state pension with their own contributions.

The unspoken assumptionis that this will be through tooup contributions to personal pensions into which a compulsory slice of salary has already been paid to provide basic provision.

But recent letters to the Pensions Postbag column reveal some public disillusionment with personal pensions. High charges, poor performance and inflexible rules when peoples' circumstances change have all led readers to question whether it is worth pouring hard-earned money into schemes which appear to represent such poor value for

money.

Could a Pep or Tessa give them a better deal for their retirement, many readers ask. Here are extracts from just two of the letters.

■"1 pay £101.33 per month into a pension plan which I took out in February 1994 and which may provide a yearly pension of £970 before tax when I retire in 2000. The question in my mind is whether I would be better off putting the monthly contribution into a Tessa or a Pep. or even just spending it."

■"I have accumulated only a very small pension fund from past periods of employment. Since 1992, my husband, who is already receiving his pension, has paid voluntary National Insurance contributions of £309 a year to help me to boost my state pension. I am wondering whether it would be better to use this money towards some form of Pep to produce an income for me when I reach pensionable age. I have fought shy of this until now because I believed that management charges would eliminate much of the contributions which can only be in the region of £25 a month."

advantage that you will not lose capital nor face high initial or continuing charges, but the value of your investment could erode if inflation rises. Even if it does not, returns on deposit accounts have historically been lower than on equity-based investments such as pensions or Peps.

Personal equity plans (Peps) are equity based. There is a risk of losing capital if stock markets fall, but retirement provision should be long term. Like pensions, your investment will roll up taxfree. Unlike pensions you will also receive the final fund taxfree. Peps -have- two main advantages over pensions for



Weekend Money replies: Unfortunately there is no right or wrong answer to how you should save for retirement. Much depends on your tax position, your other assets and your approach to invest-

But there are some basic ground rules, according to Mark Bolland of Chamberlain de Broe, the independent financial adviser.

■ Tax-exempt special savings accounts (Tessas) allow investments of up to £9,000 over five years with interest rolling up tax free if you do not touch the investment. But they are deposit accounts. They have the those who value flexibility. First, you can take the fund before retirement if you need to. Secondly, you do not have to use the majority of your fund to buy an annuity as you do with a pension. You could blow it all on the day you retire or reinvest it for income

to £9,000 a year into a Pep. Unlike pensions, the level of your contributions is not dietated by your salary and you do not have to be earning to make contributions, although taxpayers will be the ones to benefit from the relief. Peps carry initial and con-

where you please. Each individual can put up

agement charges in particular will erode small sums. Many contributions as low as £25 a Pensions can carry big initial charges which may in

some cases erode the whole of your investment in the early years of your savings. If you subsequently stop contribut-ing you will not be able to cash in your investment but will have to leave it or transfer it to another pension plan. Funds left in a plan will continue to attract charges. The main attraction of pen

tinuing charges, depending on the type of underlying

investment and there are new

start-up charges every year

because you have to start a

But according to Mr

Bolland, Peps often work out

cheaper than pensions, partly

because salesmen's commis

sions are lower on Peps. The

key cost is the annual man-

agement charge, which can be as much as 1.5 per cent on

some unit-trust Peps. You will

probably also face an initial

charge of 5 or 6 per cent, including salesman's commis-

sion. Over time, annual man-

new plan.

sions, particularly for higherrate taxpayers, is that contributions currently attract tax relief at the highest rate. This, coupled with the tax-free growth of the investment, is meant to justify rules that compel people to spend roughly three quarters of their fund buying an annuity to give them a guaranteed income. An annuity is a gamble. If you buy when rates are poor you are stuck with a low income for life. If you die the year after you buy it, your pension fund dies with you.

Annuities take a knock, page 39

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From Mrs J. Edwards

18 Onslow Court,

saving, April 19) Karen Zagor says National Savings

dropped the yearly bond

scheme because there was not

enough demand.

This was a scheme in which savers put aside between £20

and £400 a month on terms

where for a plan taken out in

November 1992, for example,

the tax-free rate of return over

5 years equalled 6.75 per cent

compound; for the two follow-

ing years it was 5.75 per cent

and 5.85 per cent respectively

returns which bear favour-

able comparison with other

My understanding is that the Treasury considered the rates of interest too generous and stopped any further contributions; despite government of the contributions of the contrib

ment expressions of intent that

people should be encouraged

25 Hydethorpe Road, SW12.

to save for the future.

C. S. CORCOŔAN,

Yours faithfully.

National Savings schemes.



WEKENDWONERETES

Shabby treatment of service widows A bouquet — and a brickbat for **National Savings**

From Mrs J. Green Sir, Jenny Grove's excellent Sir, I most heartily endorse Mr R. J. Hobdell's praise (Weekend Money Letters, April 19) of the National Sav-ings staff at Durham. article (Service pension rules add to widow's distress, April 26) highlighted the problems faced by war and service widows. Our particular conmore than 20 years, the staff cern is that the occupational Armed Forces Family Penthere have dealt with many applications to reinvest, pursion should be for life, rechase or partly repay our sav-ings certificates with great eff-iciency and a kindly, caring atgardless of whether a widow remarries. Tom King as Defence Minister stated quite categorically that this was a

titude to sorting out all queries promptly, either by telephon-ing or by writing to us. Our monthly budgeting contributory pension. Recently one young service widow was initially refused a mortgage on the grounds-that her pension (income) would be impossible without a regular income from the partrepayment of one or other of was not guaranteed. They the certificates and I am infinitely grateful to the staff said it was dependent on her remaining without a partner and she could not give that for their excellent service. Yours faithfully, JANET EDWARDS, guarantee. It is quite wrong that those who lose a spouse while serving in the Forces should be denied the right to Drayton Gardens, SWIO. keep their occupational pen-sion while rebuilding stable From Mr C. S. Corcoran family units. Surely it is time to correct this anomaly? Sir. In her article (Step by step

Yours faithfully, JENNY GREEN, President, RAF Widows' Association, c/o 67 Portland Place, WI.

From Mrs L. Long Sir. Your correspondents Mrs E. Marshall and Capt M. Dunlop are very lucky compared with me. I have been widowed 26 years and my husband's naval pension (after a lifetime of service in the Royal Navy) was cut off the day he died after an accident. His lifetime of service at sea did not count for anything. The date of our marriage was the controlling rule.

given up hope of anything. Yours faithfully, L LONG, Shobdon, Leominster, Herefordshire.

I am over 80 now and have

From Mrs I. Bloor Sir, The War Widows' Association of Great Britain with the support of others in the ex-service community has been successful over the years in campaigning for improved pensions and conditions for pre-1973 war wid-ows. The association is still campaigning for a pension for life for the young widows, who would lose their pension

From Mr M. McLintock



Still proud: war and service widows at their annual ceremony at the Cenotaph

if they remarried or cohabited. These ladies get a much smaller DSS pension, as their husbands paid into an occupational pension scheme. It seems very unfair that this occupational pen-sion should stop for any reason, After all if their husband had worked for another employer they would in all probability have kept the pension for life. In this respect, we are treating our war widows less favourably than ordinary widows and that cannot be right. We are always delighted to welcome new members. Yours faithfully, IRENE BLOOR, Public Relations Officer,

War Widows Association of Great Britain, l Coach Lane. Stanton in Peak, Matlock, Derbyshire.

From Sqn Ldr A. Garretts Sir. May I add another facet the debate on Armed

Forces pensions. In 1941, aged 19, I volunteered for the RAF. I reported for duty that September and ten months later qualified as a Sgt Pilot. I was a Warrant Officer when the war ended, commis-sioned in 1946, and retired as Squadron Leader in 1971.

My last full tour of duty was with a Nato unit and my main contacts were two officers of equal rank, one Dutch one Belgian. Both were a little older than I and had therefore served for about a year more than I had Both of their Services had higher rates of pay than the RAF. We all expected to retire at about the same time.

The Dutchman expected to retire with a pension equal to about 80 per cent of his final salary. His widow could expect to receive 50 per cent.

In calculating the pension for the Belgian officer (who had served in the RAF during the war) his wartime service

our job to make such changes to the busi-cation, that they should not promote ness as we think are in our investors' interproducts unless their recent record is

was trebled and overseas service in trouble spots, such as the Congo, was doubled. Because of this he was looking forward to a pension in excess of 90 per cent of his final salary. His widow would receive 50 per cent.

When calculating my pension my length of service was the age of 21 being included in the calculations. As a result, my pension was about one third of my final salary. I calculated that the Belgian officer's widow's pension would be higher than my total pension. And, of course, my widow will receive only one third of that.

I was proud to serve my country for nearly 30 years. What a pity that my country has no pride in the way it treats those who served it. Yours laithfully: A. GARRETTS.

Woodbridge, Suffolk.

good. Do you really believe this can be in the public's interest? Today's fashion is

tomorrow's discard. I would have thought

you would be pleased that there are fund

managers around who have the courage

to market what they believe in, even if it is

unfashionable, rather than pandering to every short-term whim. The time to be

investing is at the bottom of a cycle, such

as that currently affecting the value style.

Yours faithfully

3 Minster Court, Great Tower Street, EC3.

MICHAEL MCLINTOCK,

Group Managing Director, M&G Group Plc.

M&G defends its investment criteria

erests. We are not in any way embarras-

sed to have plans to improve our day-to-

day investment process and to clarify our

funds identities and objectives - no org-

anisation is perfect, and we believe we can make a number of significant improve-

ments to the way in which M&G conducts

I profoundly disagree with your conten-tion that M&G has been at fault in pursu-

ing a value strategy "when this was clear-

Sir, I refer to your editorial (Performance left wanting at M&G, April 26). It poses serious questions which demand a response. You refer to M&G's "misguided attachment to an investment strategy". M&G is, and will remain, well known as a value investor — meaning, in essence, a strategy of buying unfashionable and int-rinsically cheap shares with good pros-pects that have been overlooked by the UP TO 148% Gross market. This strategy remains as valid today as it ever has and has been consistently proven to deliver above-average long-term returns. We are a new management team -1RETURNED OVER THREE YEARS.

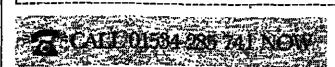


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ly not in the interests of customers". You seem to suggest that fund managers should run around changing their invest-ment strategy whenever they hit difficult short-term circumstances and by implionly took over as group managing director in February this year — and it is An Equitable pension

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Annuities take a knock

The reverberations of the Bank of England's Independence Day spread as far as the arcane world of pension annuities. Tuesday's news that Eddie George, the Bank's Governor, aged 61 but with no plans for retiring. would be responsible for setting interest rates, acted to reduce the pensions of contemporaries receiving their gold clocks this week.`

The link between Mr George's new duties and the fall in the rates for pension annuities, fixed-rate investments sold by insurance companies; lies in the market in

government gilt-edged stocks. The surprise news of the Bank's expanded role encouraged investors to believe that inflation would be held in check over the long term. This tide of optimism led to enthusiastic buying of gilts. Their prices tend to rise as inflation fears diminish. When gilt prices rise, the yields or returns from the stocks fall. On Tuesday the key yield turnbled from 7.41 per cent to 7.14 per cent (the yield is calculated by dividing the income by the market price).

Rates on annuities, which are based on gilt yields, also declined. One observer described the market as being "in meltdown". Some companies raced to reduce their rates, with the Prudential making Anne Ashworth on twists and

turns in the pensions market

two reductions. Those with personal pensions must use their funds to buy an annuity from which their pension will be paid. Although the purchase of an annuity can be delayed until age 75, most people prefer to make the decision on retirement, leaving them vulnerable to the twists and turns in annuity rates. Some had postponed arranging their annuities until after the election.

for those taking retirement this week, the impact of the annuity rate decreases were significant. Peter Quinton, of the Annuity Bureau, one of the firms of financial advisers specialising in annuities, said that a 60year-old man with a £100,000 pension fund setting out to buy an annuity could now expect an annual income of £9.194. Last week this fund would have bought an annuity paying £9,681 a year.

Thursday, observers were able to view matters more dispassionately. Mr Quinton described the first day's events as an "overreaction". He noted that gilt yields had begun to rise and predicted that some companies may even begin to slightly improve their rates in coming weeks. However, there now seems little chance that annuity rates will return to their late 1980s double-digit levels, about a third higher than today. The current annuity rate is about 9 per cent of the fund.

Billy Burrows, of Annuity Direct, another firm of annuity advisers, pointed out that it was more important than ever for anyone now seeing their pension fund mature to shop around rather than taking ny's offer: "The trend for annuity rates seems to be downwards. This is not only the effect of the rise in gilt yields. People are living longer, which means that insurance companies are lowering annuity rates as they are forced to pay out for longer periods.

Mr Burrows advised that anyone contemplating buying an annuity should act now before all insurance companies cut their rates.

Mr Quinton was more sanguine, believing that buyers could take a week or two to survey the market.



The Prudential reduced its annuity rates twice this week

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The loan arranger

rying to get a mortgage on the high street if you have a bad credit rating is like walking into Dodge City at high noon. Nobody wants to know you. But, for a few dollars more, there are

Next week TransAmerica and Paragon Mortgages join the sharpshooters, such as Kensington Mortgage Company and Preferred Mortcan't be choosers, enabling these lenders to charge a 2 to 3 percentage point premium over the standard variable

mortgage rate. TransAmerica's direct telephone-based service charges a minimum 9.9 per cent APR for first-time buyers. This compares with the new stan-TransAmerica is also setting itself up as a white knight for aggrieved borrowers of another US lender. City Mortgage Corporation, which focuses on council tenants with poor credit bistories seeking to buy their homes. It has been criticised for doubling interest rates when borrowers are a day late in making payments and for levying excessive redemption penalties and paying large commissions to brokers. Agsociation and are pursuing several court cases. They may

TransAmerica is waiving its £300 fee for CMC borrowers and charging I per cent less than the rate they were paying. However, with CMC's high penalties, it is doubtful whether many will be able to take advantage. Tel: 0800 Paragon's new Freshstart

mortgage charges a threepoint premium, higher than most of its rivals. Freshstart begins by levying 10.2 per cent monthly interest. However, if you make 36 consecutive pay-ments, the company effectrating by removing the premium. Freshstart will be useful for people trading down to a smaller home or who are relocating to start a new job. says John Heron, executive director. The most you can borrow is 80 per cent of the value of the property. Up to 1 per cent of the value of the loan will go to a mortgage broker and there is a £200 fee upon completion. Tel: 0800

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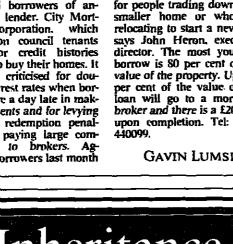
some lenders willing to help.

gages who aim loans at people who have got into financial trouble after redundancy or divorce. But beggars

grieved borrowers last month

find a sympathetic ear in the Government which is committed to strengthening consumer protection against unfair mortgage products. CMC says its charges and penalties are in line with the industry.

GAVIN LUMSDEN





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THE TIMES MONEY INFORMATION SERVICE

Green credit card will biodegrade

o-operative Bank aims to have replaced all its existing two million credit cards with eco-friendly. Biopol cards by the year 2000. The bank's new biodegradable credit card was launched this week in association with Greenpeace and is made from a plastic produced from natural resources. Until now. all credit cards have been made from PVC. The card has an interest rate of 1.5 per cent per month. 19.5 per cent APR. Call 0800 339922 for more details.

IF YOU are still confused about self-assessment and worried about the severe penalties for late completion, a computer package produced by Which? Software will take the pain out of the process.

TarCalc 1996-97 calculates how much tax you should be paying and how much the Inland Revenue may owe you. The package which is IBM compatible, features Inland Revenue tax advice leaflets and includes more than 40 tax-saving tips. TaxCalc costs £29.99 and is available by calling 0800 252100.

■ AGE CONCERN Insurance Services has redesigned its pet insurance policy to meet the specific needs of

older people. The new policy will be available only to pe owners aged 55 or over. Fea tures include cover for cus tomers who have to go into a nursing home, interest-free increased level of vet fee cover from £1.750 to £2,600. Fo further information, call 0800

■ TO AID unit trust investor in the completion of their tax returns, the Association of Unit Trusts and Investment Funds (Autif) has updated its guide Unit Trusts and Tax in line with the new self-assessment system. The guide directs investors from the tax vouchers they will have re-ceived from their fund managers to the appropriate parts of the 1997 tax return. For a free copy call 0181-207 1361.

■ EVERY question you could possibly have regarding tax is answered in J. Rothschild Assurance's Tax Guide 1997-98. This tax bible includes sections on profit-related pay and the phasing out of tax relief, plus capital allowances on long-life assets. It is available from bookshops priced

LIZANNE ROSE

INSTANT ACCESS ACCOUNTS	Account	Notice of term	Deposit	Rate	Interest paid
Sainsbury's Bank 0500 405060 Nationwide BS 0500 302010 Northern Rock BS 0500 505000 Nationwide BS 0500 302010	Instant Access Invest Direct Select Instant Invest Direct	Instant Postal Postal Postal	£1 £500 £5,000 £10,000	5.75 6.40 6.35 6.45	Yiy Yiy Yiy Yiy
NOTICE ACCOUNTS & BONDS	Account	Notice of term	Deposit	Rate	Interest paid
Nottingham BS 0115 9564422 Northern Rock BS 0500 505000 Scarborough BS 01723 500616 Leopold Joseph 0171 588 2323	Postal Plus Select 60 Scarborough 100 100 Day Notice	30 day p 60 day p 100 day 100 day	£2,500 £25,000 £1,000 £10,000	6.40 6.70 6.30 6.54	Yly Yly Yly Yly
FIRST TESSAS (TAX FREE)	Account	Notice of term	Deposit	Rate	Interest paid
Sun Banking Corp 01438 744505 Bank of Ireland (GB) 0800 971971 West Bromwich BS 0990 143688 Monmouthshire BS 01633 840454	Fxd+feeder a/c Fxd+feeder opt	5 year 5 year 5 year 5 year	£8,575 £3,000 £3,000	7.55 7.50 7.00	F/Yly F/Yly Yly Ylv

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RBS Advanta 0800 077770 Capital One Bank 0800 669000 Co-operative Bank 0800 109000	Visa Visa Advantage Visa	0.79%N 0.79%N 0.87%C	9.90%N 9,90%N 10.90%	Nii Nii Nii
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Lombard Direct 0800 215000 £120.02 * RATES SHOWN ARE GROSS AND SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT NOTICE PLEASE CHECK RATES BEFORE INVESTING

Guide to Investment & Mortgage Rates (01692 500 577)

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FT-SE 100 PRICE INDEX no insurance £102.49 £98.77 £101.20

NATIONAL SAVINGS BASE RATES Y MORTGAGES Ordinary A/c1 1.50 1.20 0.90 10-10.000**
Investment A/c2 4.75 3.80 2.85 20-500**7
Income Bond* 6.00 4.80 3.602.000-25.000**
First Opt Bonds 6.00 4.80 3.601.000-20.000**
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SINGLE LIFE (level ann)	Male:	Age 60	Age 65	Age 7
Standard LfLevel		€ 9,776	£10,844	£12.24
Equitable LfLevel		2 9,905	£10,824	£12.02
StalwartLevel		2 9,731	£10,782	211,89
Norwich UnionLevel		£ 9,578	£10,691	£11,98
Canada LiLevel ·		€ 9,502	£10,587	£12.06
SINGLE LIFE	Female:	Age 60	Age 65	Age 7
Norwich UnionLevel	****	€8,973	£ 9.765	£10,91
StalwartLevel.	• .	£8,816	£ 9,718	£10,59
Equitable LfLevel		28,971	2 9,658	£10,61
Canada LifeLevel		£8,800	£ 9,614	£10.80
Standard LiLevel		£8,756	£ 9,584	£10,72
JOINT LIFE, 2/3 WIDOWS	Male:	Age 60	Age 65	Age 7
(level annuity)	Female:	Age 55	Age 60	Age 6
StalwartLevel		£8,621	29,308	£10,08
Equitable L'Level		28,660	. 29.186	£ 9,91
Norwich UnionLevel		28,567	29,097	£ 9.83
Canada LifeLevel		£8,370	£8,994	€ 9,87
Standard LifeLevel		£8,336	£8,984	£ 9,84
Source: Annuity Direct (0171 588 5	3393)			
Statistics co	mpiled	by Lizan	ne Rose	

GUARANTEED INCOME BONDS

ANNUAL INCOME Rates as at May 8, 1997

	Investment (£)	Company	Rate (%)
1 Year			_
	1,000	Hambro Assured	4.40
	5.000	GE Financial Assur	5.90
	20.000	GE Financial Assur	6.05
	50.000	GE Financial Assur	6.15
2 Years			
	1,000	Hambro Assured	5.05
	5,000	GE Financial Assur	6.15
	20,000	GE Financial Assur	6.25
	50,000	GE Financial Assur	6.35
3 Years			
	1,000	Hambro Assured	5.45
	5,000	GE Financial Assur	6.53
	20,000	GE Financial Assur	6.63
	50,000	GE Financial Assur	6.73
4 Years			
	1,000	Hambro Assured	5.90
	5,000	GE Financial Assur	6.71
	20,000	GE Financial Assur	6.81
	50,000	GE Financial Assur	6.91
5 Years			
	1,000	Hambro Assured	5.85
	3,000	ITT London & Edin	7.00
	10,000	GE Financial Assur	7.30

Early surrender. Terms vary. Monthly income may be ave

FIXED RATE	Gross coupon	Buying price	% Gross yleid	Issue price	Minimum purchase amount
Birmingham Midshires	9.375%	111,36	8.397	100.17	1,000
Bradford & Bingley	11.625%	137.43	8.45 9	100.13	10,000
Bradford & Bingley	13.000%	153.60	8.464	100.20	10,000
Bristol & West	13.375%	158.94	8.415	100.34	1,000
Britannia	13,000%	154.14	8.434	100.42	1,000
Coventry	12.125%	143.92	8.380	100.75	1,000
First National	11.750%	137.78	8.528	100.25	10,000
Halifax	8.750%	107.78	8.118	100.62	50,000
Halifax	12,000%	142.13	8.042	100.28	50,000
Halifax	13.625%	166.60	8.178	100.00	50,000
Leeds & Holbeck	13.375%	158.94	8.415	100.23	1,000
Newcastle	10.750%	128,56	8.335	100.32	1,000
Newcastle	12.625%	150.07	8,413	100.45	1,000
Northern Rock	12,625%	152.22	8.294	100.14	1,000
Skipton	12.875%	153.03	8.414	100.48	1,000
FLOATING RATE	Gross coupon	Buyin		ssue orice	Minimum purchase
Cheshire (30/09-27/03)	9.04063%	112.5	0 10	0.00	1,000
First Nat(22/09-20/03)		100.0		0.00	1,000
PIBS = Permanent interest- Source ABN AMRO Hoars (

Northern Rock BS 0345 421421 Coutts & Co via local branch

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Lender	rate %	size	%	Notes
Building Societies Northern Rock 0800 591500	. 5.10	to £80k	95	2.50% discount to 1.6.2000
Woolwich Local branch	4.60	£20-200k	50	2.5% disc-12mth plus 2.5% cashb
Nationwide 0800 302010	4.39	£150-300k	90	2,60% discount for 1 year
Banks Bank of Ireland	0.99	£20-145k	95	6.50% disc-6 mt
01189 510100 Reyal Bank of Scot 0800 121121	4,25	£150-250k	90	3% disc-6 mins 3% discount to 1.10.97
%			4-3	6.
%	Interest rate %	RGER I Loan size	OAI Max %	Notes
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Building Societies	Interest rate %	Loan size	Max %	Notes 6.99% disc-6mth
Building Societies Scarborough 0990 133149 Nottingham Imper. 0115 9817220 Universal 0191 232 0973	interest rate %	Loan size £30-100k	Max % 95	Notes 6.99% disc-6mtr 2%-6mth,0.5%-1 Fixed at 0.75%
Building Societies Scarborough 0990 133149 Nottingham Imper. 0115 9817220 Universal	Interest rate % 0.25 0.75	Loan size £30-100k £25-150k	Max % 95 75	Notes 6.99% disc-6mth 2%-6mth,0.5%-1 Fixed at 0.75% to 31.1.98 6% discount to

Lender	Interest rate %	. Loan size	Max %_	Notes
Building Societ	es	•		
Bristol&West 0800 119955	4.99	£15k+	95	Fixed to 1.3.98 plus 1% cashbact
Newbury 01635 43676	3.99	£15-100k	95	3% discount for 12 months
Halifax 01422 333333	4.60	any	95	3%d 31.5.99,0.5% over SVR-31.5.04
Banks				
Bnk of Ireland 01189 510100	0.99	£20-145k	95	6,50% disc 6 mths 3% disc 6 mths
Abbey National 01908 343400	4.89	to £125k	75	Fixed to 31.5.99

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Going for Golf



Golf star: Paula Hamilton's stylish rejection of her man and her fur but not her Golf boosted the hatchback's sales

nyone who has renewed or taken out car insurance recently and telephoned a handful of insurers picked at random from Yellow Pages, may have been surprised by the wide spread of premiums on offer. One reader of The Times for example, reports quotes rang-ing from £159 to £411 for a policy to cover a new car white tast week my companies and among a dozen insurance companies and varying brokers produced premiums varying from £175 to £254 (see below). All of which is good news if it means that shopping around results in big savings. But why is there such a difference?

No one is surprised that it is cheaper to insure an Austin Allegro in Little Snoring than a Ferrari in inner London, but such a spread of premium for the same risk prompts slower examination. It also raises the question of what you get for your money. Inevitably there is no simple answer. The range of prices quoted reflects supply and demand say some insurers. Certainly the competitiveness of the market is made clear by the eagerness of some insurers to cut premiums

instantly if you give them a price to beat. The difficulty for the car owner is to know which insurer is most interested in their business and therefore able to offer the best package of both cover and service in the event of your making a claim. In some instances making the match is relatively easy where insurers set out their stalls to attract a very specific category of drivers such as classic car enthusiasts or people with performance cars.

For Ms average, going through a broker rather than phoning round a selection of companies, may provide the quickest answer. A good broker, says Eamonn Brokers Association), can advise people on a range of options, drawing on their knowledge of the insurance market and of the client's precise needs.

In spite of the success of the direct insurers which first appeared in the late 1980s, there has been a trend back towards brokers, says Mr Brown. Not surprisingly brokers are keen to challenge the belief that going direct is automaticalthe cheapest option or indeed that price alone should be the deciding factor in choosing your insurer. If you select an insurance package through a broker or other intermediary it will include a commission element typically about 10-12 per cent, but says Mr Brown, brokers are directly competitive with direct insurers.

n theory, while intermediaries have access to a wide range of insurance options, in practice many put much of their business through a relatively small number of companies and are therefore able to take advantage of discounts offered on a certain volume of business. The direct approach to selling insurance made its mark with companies such as Direct Line promoting themselves on the basis of low overheads and no middlemen

equalling low premiums for customers.

But direct insurers have significant overheads such as advertising costs to meet and the newer companies are now being soneezed by the build-up of claims. the decline in car premium levels over the past few years and the increasing number of personal injury claims now being pursued, covering problems such as whiplash as a result of an accident.

Direct Line, with more than two million policyholders and one of the largest Browne, chairman of the motor panel of "companies in the private insurance markfrom £112 million to £26.5 million in the year to September. The group, part of the

Royal Bank of Scotland, blamed growing

claims and competition. Confusingly there is a degree of overlap between the different companies offering insurance. Large insurance groups may have their own direct business, also sell through brokers and other agents, and have subsidiaries acting as insurance agents for a range of insurers. The AA acts as an intermediary with 13 insurance companies on its books but this summer is also planning to set up its own direct insurance company in a joint venture with Eagle Star, which will target AA members. To add to the problem insurance companies and intermediaries are all lumped together in Yellow Pages as insurance agents"

The distinction between brokers and agents is also often blurred as many offer a similar service. Brokers are registered under the 1977 Brokers Registration Act and are bound by a code of conduct, while agents and other intermediaries do not have an equivalent governing body though conform to the Association of British Insurers code of conduct. The outlook for car insurance premiums continues to be variable and more unsettled than in recent years. The fierce competition in the past two years has seen some insurers cut premiums to the bone to hold market share.

Rates hit the bottom of the cycle last year and are now rising. Last month, insurance premium tax rose from 2.5 to 4 per cent and, even excluding this increase, according to the AA's quarterly British Insurance Premium Index average comprehensive car premiums have risen 25 per cent since January and are forecast to saw its profits fall sharply, rise 8-10 per cent this year

How the insurer reaches his price

In explaining price differences, insurers use the analogy of choosing budget own-label products in a supermarket as opposed to a premium branded product, although cheaper policies sometimes appear to

offer more. But, said Mike Jones. head of group corporate affairs for Royal Sun Alliance, "you cannot underestimate the costs of different cover added on by insurers."

These might include cover for driving abroad, use of a courtesy car if your own is off the road after an accident or access to a 24-hour helpline. Such details may be standard on some policies. added extras on others. so it is worth checking the small print to find out exactly what different policies offer

There is also the attitude of each insurer to risks. Each company wili have a different view based on its experience," added Mr Jones. When calculating a premium, each insurer will have its own view on risks associated with different types of car and the age and history of the driver. The insurer will also look at how premium income is weighed against the company's past history of claims and expectations of future claims.

The premium you are quoted will further depend on how well your risk sits with the insurer's view of its target market. "Increasingly companies are more choosy about the type of business they attract," said David Ross, of Guardian Insurance.

In a competitive market with slim profit margins, the trend has been for insurers to carve their own niche by targeting the more specialised areas, such as young, older. or lady drivers. So you may be quoted a high premium because you do not fit an insurer's target market and it is pricing itself out of the runni

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included and provision of courtesy car while repairs carried out after an accident. Discount on RAC membership if not already member. No-blame, no-penalty clause means NCB or bonus protec-

tion is not affected if a claim is made after damage by unknown or uninsured party. ■ Direct Line, £236.08 --- no excess for fire and theft, £100 for accidental damage. Legal cover but no courtesy car.

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£100,000 +	6.70%	6.50%	6.70%
£50,000 +	6.60%	6.41%	6.60%
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THE TIMES SATURDAY MAY 10 1997		EQUITY PRICES 43
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TWO aspects stand out about

the dominance accorded En-

trepreneur in the build-up to

the Derby. One is that the

2,000 Guineas winner. im-

pressive though he was at

Newmarket, is trading at ri-

diculously short odds. The

other is that pundits dismiss-

ing the emergence of a mean-

ingful challenger are acting

Chester's May meeting

failed in that respect, but over

the next fortnight at least one colt will burst from the ranks

with the apposite qualities for

Epsom. That quest moves on

to Lingfield today, where the Tripleprint Derby Trial (3.00)

RICHARD EVANS

Nap: Supply And Demand (3.30 Lingfield Park)

Next best: Tanaasa

(3.00 Lingfield Park)

is the last of three races live on

The contest has attracted Silver Patriarch, who created

a ripple of interest when

closing down on Voyagers

Quest and Benny The Dip at

Sandown last month. This

admirable sort, who should

improve as he steps up in

distance, is generally per-

ceived as one capable of mak-

To do that, Silver Patriarch

must win with rare gusto. But

GOING: GOOD

Entrepreneur break

WORCESTER

2.10 Kinnescash. 2.40 Rich Life. 3.10 Fontanaya

2.10 HOLLY GREEN JUVENILE NOVICES HURDLE

2.40 GREAT MALVERN NOVICES CHASE

3-1 With Impurity, 3-2 Rich Life, 7-1 Crane Hill, 8-1 Walls Court, Desert Brave, 10-1 Hangower The Bargeman, Who Am I, 12-1 others.

4-1 Euro Singer, Stay With Me. 11-2 Mistazz, 13-2 Fantanays, 8-1 Gur Robert, Deity Sport Gat, Classic Pal, 10-1 others

[22,828: 2m 7f 110yd) (15)

1 PSFP DONT TELL THE WIFF 7 (B.C.G.S) C Egenon 11-12-0 M Benry
2 -563 MEVADA GOLD 82 (C.F.G.S) F Yardley 11-11-7 Michael Bronnan
3 24- MARTIEL BOY 490 (C.S) Miss v Wilkerns 10-11-5. P Henley
4 U/OP LUTLE-NPPER 74 (F.C.S) B Smith 12-11-1. P Missey
5 2104 COURT MASTER 18 (S) R Booker 9-10-13. R Missey
6 513U FARNEY GLEN 40 (F.C.S) J J Orbina 10-10-11 . O slevets (7)
7 1243 RWER LEVEN 56 (B.G.S) D Gondoto 40-10-11. Sophe Michael
8 1331 TRUST DEED 5 (B.D.F.G) S Missh) 9-10-11. Sophe Michael
8 1331 TRUST DEED 5 (B.D.F.G) S Missh) 9-10-10 . G F Ryan
10 6322 LAY IT OFF 19 (F.S.) J G OYBER 3-10-6 . L Aspell
11 6413 NO FDOUNGE 28 (G.S.) 5 (M.C.Dan 6-10-5 . D Frott
12 541P GOOD FOR A LAUGH 25 (F.C.S) A Hobbs 13-10-5 O Burrows
13 45P2 JAURIERAERT 59 (G.S) B Missher 10-10-0 . J Power
14 BUSO GOLDEN GPAL 8 (G.S.) R Borsker 12-10-0 . J Michaemold (7)
17-28 BOOMM MATCH 7 (F.C.S) J Bradley 10-10-0 . J Power
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7-2 Nova Champ. 7-1 Trust Deed, No Faidlang, 8-1 River Leven. 18-1 Martell Boy. Court Master, Famery Glen, Lay 8 08, 12-1 others

3.40 LITTLE MALVERN CONDITIONAL JOCKEYS HANDICAP CHASE

3.10 HORSERACE BETTING LEVY BOARD

HANDICAP HURDLE (£2,373 2m) (11)

(£2,978; 2m 4f 110yd) (11)

with undue haste.

THUNDERER

3.30 Regal Patrol

charm useful as the season heads into the final weeks. Meetings begin to dwindle and horses are being roughed off, so it is time to cast around for spare rides if you are really ambitious for that title. However, this can present problems. Taking outside rides can offend long-standing patrons, while other riders can

THE country's top riders may

find qualifications in tact and

title hunter is poaching on

Vickery relies on an old ally

POINT-TO-POINT BY CARL EVANS feel aggrieved too if they feel a son's absence and he has a

their territory. Turning to an old contact is useful and Shirley Vickery, Somerset born and bred. forged a winning partnership with the Herefordshire trainer Mark Jackson on Monday when landing a double.

Vickery, who is leading the women's championship with 22 successes, used to work as a secretary for the former trainer John Edwards and was therefore a neighbour of Jackson's.

"I think Shirley's the top woman rider, professional or amateur, in the country at the moment," Jackson said yesterday. She can repay that com-pliment on his Sisterly at the Cotswold Vale tomorrow.

Jackson, a talented rider himself, broke his leg last autumn but-plans to return to race riding next season. So too does Dumfriesshire-based Kevin Anderson, out with shoulder injuries this term but

winning chance on the stable's Bit Of A Blether at the Cumberland meeting today. However that one fares. Parker is drooling at the prospect of renewing ac-quaintance with Reg Makin's Makin' Dooin in the following intermediate race.

Jamie Jukes has been hampered in his attempt to retain the national men's title by a virus at Bert Lavis's stable this season, but Richard White's illness has opened a door at Victor Dartnall's yard. That has been a useful source of winners for the Welshman who can collect on the stable's Four Leaf Clover at the Minebead Harriers & West Somerset meeting at Holnicote.

TODAY'S MEETINGS: Babcale at Escingwold, 12m NW of York, (first race 200), Cambertand, Aspaira, 5m NV of town (200); East Anglein Bloodhounds, Marka Tey, 6m W of Colchesser (201), Minchead & W Somenset, Hotzacta 3m W of Minchead (200) Surrey Union, Peper Harow, 3m W of Gocalming (200), Vale of Aylesbury, Kingston Blourt, 7m NW of High Wycombe (230).

determined to be in the saddle next year on horses he and wife, Kate, train near Lockerbie.

Andrew Parker has been the main beneficiary of Ander-May, I'm S of town (200). Sit Devon at Citery St. Mary, I'm S of town (200).



RACING: STOUTE TO CAPTURE LINGFIELD DERBY TRIAL WITH PROMISING LEICESTER WINNER

The grey Silver Patriarch, third behind Voyagers Quest at Sandown, reappears in today's Lingfield Derby Trial

the problem is that he does not Eddery will make more use of him today, thus enabling the do things easily. He looked uncomfortable on rain-softcolt's stamina to come into ened ground at Sandown, so Whatever his fate, Silver the forecast better surface should help him. Yet he lacks Patriarch will always be vulnerable to an opponent with basic speed, as shown by his

lethargy in the opening ex-

consolidate the favourable reviews he received when successful at Leicester recently. Tanaasa's trainer, Michael Stoute, has clearly had this race on the agenda; Stoute landed this event three years ago with Hawker's News, who changes at Sandown. Perhaps . here in Tanaasa, who can had previously triumphed in

DRAW: 5F, HIGH NUMBERS BEST

2.15 KIPLINGCOTE SELLING STAKES (3-Y-0: £2,721: 1m 1f 207yd) (11 nunners)

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101 (7) 5500 BALL-PET 17 (6) J Parkers 6-12
102 (10) 6-00 CAPTAIN FLINT 12 A Smith 6-12
103 (2) 0050 FATHER EDUE 12 J J O Neal 8-12
104 (9) 6 GUARD A DREAM 12 Mes I Mescley 6-12
105 (6) 6943 SKSL 10N SOMERBER 9 (D) R Halfactand 6-12
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111 (11) 00 FOUX IF ROSE 12 J Seamil 8-7

THUNDERER

BEVERLEY

2.15 Rochea, 2.45 Mardrew, 3.15 Tertium, 3.45 First Maite, 4.15 Indiscreet, 4.45 Jamaican Flight,

the same Leicester race won by Tanaasa two weeks ago. Tanaasa displayed an excitable nature when pulling for his head on his sole iuvenile start. The prospect of a slow pace, often a result of small fields, dampens confidence in him. Yet he remains an in-

triguing prospect. A stable-mate of Entrepreneur, he can secure his place in the Derby field here. Papua will improve on his recent showing at Epsom. He can make a fight of the runner-up berth with Silver Patriarch.

Should Ukraine Venture land the Lingfield Oaks Trial (2.30) with aplomb, she should move to the forefront of betting for the fillies classic. Book makers at present accord Reams Of Verse the honour. but this Nureyev half-sister to Elinaanul is unlikely to stay 12 furlongs. On that some, a similar doubt, albeit not so pronounced, surrounds Ukraine Venture, She is out of Sherkraine, whose best effort saw her placed in group one company over the minimum

In Ukraine Venture's Javour is her sire, the stamma-laden Slip Anchor, and the manner of her emphatic debut success over ten furlongs at Sandown. Go For Salt and Book At Bedtime, well adrift on that occasion, cannot realistically entertain any thoughts of revenge.

Chartwell Fillies' Stakes (2.00) should rest between Lochangel and Baked Alaska, the latter disappointing when un-placed in the Nell Gwyn Stakes. Baked Alaska will appreciate this easier surface but Lochangel, a half-sister to the flying Lochsong, makes more appeal. Her future looks bright judged on her Ascot defeat of Corsini last season.

401 (B) 3823 BROADSTAIRS BEAUTY 15 (B.D.F) D Show 7-9-12

4, 15 BLACK MILL CONDITIONS STAKES

2-5 Indiscreet, 4-1 Barba Papa, 11-2 Yarlensky.

(3-Y-0: £4,938: Im 1f 207yd) (3)

4.45 BURTON BUSH HANDICAP (23,784: 2m) (20)

4.00 SALAMAH (nap) 4,30 Gentilesse 5.00 Barbason Our Newmarket Correspondent: 2.30 Ukraine Venture. 3.00 TANAJSA 108 - 973 - 0-0432 - 8040 TMES 74 (CO.EF.F.S.S.) Blas D Rabins GOING: GOOD DRAW OF 7F, HIGH NUMBERS BEST 2.00 MILCARS CHARTWELL FILLIES STAKES (Listed #10.580: 77) (7-tunners) 1584-5 E. (1994-14 (D.F.) (f. Salvari) P Cole 4-9-3 Date (Pick) State 1996: ISLA DEL REY 4-9-3 1 Dellari (16-8 lav) S Bio Samar 6 am FORM FOCUS 2.30 LINGHELD DAKS TRIAL STAKES (Listeit: 3-Y-O; £12,146: 1m 3f 106yd) (5 numers) FORM FOCUS 3.45 WILLIAM HILL HANDICAP (£4,614:51) (19) 3.00 TEPPLEPEINT DERBY TRIAL STAKES (Group II; 3-Y-0; £31;110; 1m 31,10Byd) (5 nunners) 62 MSMAY 27 E André Chinasa B Smart B 020 M MENACA TOMORS 25 M JF Charles S M 215-32 PANSA 17 (V.C.F.S), (B Mandard) Halding 1411-3 MLVST PANSARS J. M. (B) P Windows J 3-1 WARNES 14 (B) (M Mandard) M Shail FORM FOCUS 3.30 H.S.B.C. JAMES CAPEL HAMPICAP 6-1 Beneristairs Beauty, 7-1 Incider Trader, 10-1 First Maile, Squira Cooke, 12-4 Dande Riyer, Lock-Hum Lady, L.A. Yosch, Caralosseus, 14-1 others. (3-Y-0 fillies: £5,824: 1m 1i) (7 miners) -1 (5) 315 Old PEDFTE 20. (Size To Ching) by debrature 1-7 (1) Holland 96 (2) 506 12, SHEPE, MICHOTHERS II, B. (S. Pepilo) 6 (1) Rober 95 (1) Rober 9 OUR PEOPLE shout 214: Set-of 4 to Their Using a good, Aug 95, with SWOFD ARM (10th belter of) conditions race at Resumeter (1st) pood; SUPPLY 3 4th. AND DEMAND 16 2nd of 15 Intelligent After in PRESAL PATROL best Apple each in 7-remner heardings at Resumeter (1st; good, 1st Intelligent at Results (1st 21, good to Stand), at Switcher (1st; good to soil); ORCHRES Stage 5 Their Condition at Results (1st 1st Intelligent at Results (1st 1st Intelligent at Results (1st 1st Intelligent at Results (1st Intel

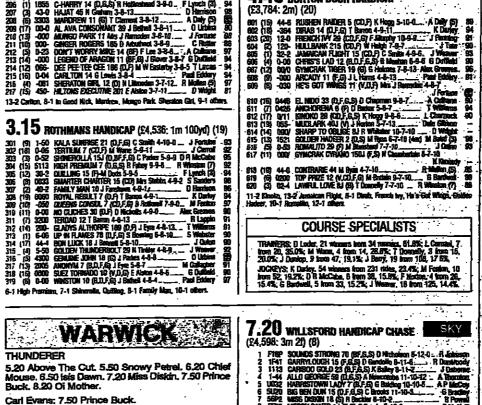
4.10 (MA HANDICAP HURDLE (£2,903: 3m) (6) 1 0412 THE TORSEACH 24 (V.F.S) J. Farshare 6-12-0 ... J. Osborne 2 U-BP SO PROUD 24 (F.S) Mrs. A Perett 12-11-6 ... R. Dusmootly 3 4400 GEREFAL MOUKTAR 38 (F.G.S) M. Pee 7-11-4 ... A P. McCoy 4 -P2R SUALENS BAY 42P (D) B. Lenethy 8-10-12 ... B. Powel 5 6422 DERRANG BROGE 7 (D.F.S) Mrs. S. Johnson 7-10-5 R. Johnson 6 0564 MEEDWOOD POPPY 7 (D.G.) B. Morgan 9-10-0 B. Callord 3.40 Nova Champ. 4.10 General Mouldar. 4.40 Macgeorge. 5.10 Rare Gift. 5.40 Pamalyn. 13-8 The Torseach, 11-4 General Monkias, 9-2 Deorlog Bridge, 7-1 Meedwara Poppy, 10-1 So Proud, Bellens Bay 4.40 SUCKLEY MOVICES CHASE (£3,456: 2m 7f 1110yd) (12)

acceleration. He faces one

2-1 Macgaergs. 5-1 Diesm Ride, Kamiliaza, 8-1 Melnik, Gamgarin Guit, 10-1 Lien De Familia, 12-1 Five Flags, 25-1 others.	11-4 Rochen, 7-2 Stellan Sovereign, 5-1 Goard A Dream, Bub-Pai, B-1 others.	
5.10 LONGDON INTERMEDIATE NATIONAL HUNT FLAT RACE (Div I: £1,413: 2m) (19) 1 RUPERT BLUES 38 (20,0) King 5-11-11. Int O McPhall (7) 2 BABBU ANS BROOK & Brooteleas 5-11-4. Int J Bodisphala (7) 3 SE BROADMINDED Miss P Weight 5-11-4. Int J Bodisphala (7) 4 BEFRIERA J Marche 5-11-4. Int J Bodisphala (7) 5 OCOCHOBOR R Bable 5-11-4. Int J Bodisphala (7) 7 CONCHOBOR R Bable 5-11-4. Int J W Walsh (7) 8 DEPUTY LEADER N Hernbroon 5-11-4. Int M Knightly (7) 10 SF RANGE MUSK (108 N Terston-Doner 5-11-4. M Knightly (7) 10 SF RANGE MUSK (108 N Terston-Doner 5-11-4. M Knightly (7) 11 ROGEL JUNGER R Peacock 6-11-4. Int R Massey (3) 12 ROGEL JUNGER R Peacock 6-11-4. Int R M Knightly (7) 13 UF SCALLY BLUE 3699 8 Prices 6-11-4. Int R M Knightly (7) 14 WYSTLING JAKE F Forsier 6-11-4. Int R M Rests 15 BARTION ILL S Brootelear 5-10-13. X Aigurun (5) 16 DEPP C DIVA J Die 5-10-13. Sopiale Mitchall (3) 17 DUNABRAITIND O Thom 4-10-13. J Missgon (3) 18 OUTRAGEOUS AFFAR 7 A James 5-10-13. J Missgon (3) 19 ZEWY THE (RESTA P Eccles 5-10-13. D D Fort (3) 19 ZEWY THE (RESTA P Eccles 5-10-13. D D Fort (3) 19 ZEWY THE (RESTA P Eccles 5-10-13. D D Fort (3) 19 ZEWY THE (RESTA P Eccles 5-10-13. D D Fort (3) 19 ZEWY THE (RESTA P Eccles 5-10-13. D D Fort (3)	2.45 HYPAC HANDRCAP (£3,898: 7f 100yd) (17) 201 (9) -000 RODE AVANCHENNG 14 (5) C Factiurs 3-9-7 (5) Mickeysm 98 202 (7) 400- BOULERO 236 (6) J Berry 3-9-4	
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13 UF SCALLY BLUE SIGHT BY PRECE 0-11-4	214 (12) 06 215 (16) 04 216 (4) 40 217 (15) 45 13-2 Carlton
5.40 LONGDOM INTERMEDIATE NATIONAL HUNT FLAT RACE (Div II: \$1,403: 2m) (18)	301 (9) 1-3 302 (18) 0-4 303 (3) 0-5 304 (15) 511 305 (12) 30
2 2420 GORNG PROMITIVE 28 J Histoarton 6-11-4	306 (8) 000 307 (2) 40 308 (19) 60 309 (10) -0 319 (11) 0-0 311 (7) 323
8 TREAT ME BOLD P Boven 5-11-4	312 (14) 20 313 (1) 64 314 (17) 44 315 (4) 54 315 (5) 43 317 (13) 20
14 0 SWEET LITTLE BRIAR 14 G Boseny 6-10-13 5 Ryon (5) THE REBRY LEDGENO N Chassos 4-10-13 5 Ryon (5) 16 0 WHESKY WENA 56 R Cuttle 5-10-13 J Parkhouses (7) 17 0 ABSOLUTE PROOF 7 W G M Tysser 4-10-8 J Power (7) 18 0 LADY BOCD 77 F Colon 4-10-8 C Rose	318 (15) 001 319 (5) 04 6-1 High Pres
-2 Counity House, 8-1 Going Printlers, Hallon Amer, 9-1 Paragyn, 19-1 albers COURSE SPECIALISTS	(1.4) (1.4)

17 18	0 ABSOLUTE PROOF 7 W G M Tysser 4-10-8 J Power (0 LADY 80CO 77 F Colon 4-10-8 C R
-2 Cou	niry House, 8-1 Going Primitive, Hollas Ausy, 9-1 Parestyn, 10-1 other
	COURSE SPECIALISTS
4 kg 404 109,	UNERS: M Pipe, 33 wenners from 129 normers, 25 8%, C Weedon, yn 16, 25 0%, Miss H Kelgid, 12 hrom 49, 24 5%, D Nichotzon, 20 1 83, 24 1%, P Nicholis, 13 from 56, 23.2%, K Badey, 24 from 22.0%.
28 L	KEYS: J Osborne, 29 vonners from 105 rides, 27.6%, A P McCoy. rom 108, 25.9%, J Cullisty, 5 from 27, 18.5%. E Husband, 3 from 17.6%, G Bradley, 10 from 58, 17.2%.



5.20 Above The Cut. 5.30 Showy Petret. 6.20 Cher Mouse, 6.50 Isis Dawn. 7.20 Miss Diskin. 7.50 Prince Buck. 8.20 Oi Mother. Carl Evans: 7.50 Prince Buck.	3 1113 CARBOO GOLD 22 (B.F.A.S.) K Baley B-11-2 J Casherie: 4 1-4 ALLO GEORGE 58 (D.E.S.) A Ministroph 11-10-12 A Plancton; 5 UC22 HARRISTOWN LADY? (B.F.G.) C Baddog 10-10-5 A P MacDog 6 SLZU BIG BEN DUN 15 (D.F.G.S.) C Brooks 11-10-3 6 Braddog 7 56P2 WESS DESMON 18 (S.) R Beckins 8-10-0 8 Provint 8 FSSS MESRY PARCTO 14 (F.G.) C Brooks B-10-0 S MESRIEL
GOING: GOOD SIS	2-1 Caribon Gold, 7-2 Samylongh, 4-1 Miss Diskin, 8-1 Squads Sisonig, Menny Panto, 10-1 Alin George, Big Bus Doe, 16-1 Harristean Lady.
5.20 FUSILIER HANDSCAP HURDLE (£2,364: 2m) (5) 1 0004 SART CEL 3 (0,53) F Jordan 9-11-10.	7.50 NORMANDY MOVICES HUNTERS CHASE (Amaleurs: £991: 3m ZI) (8) 1 TIF1 PRINCE BUCK 5 (6,5) M Raberts 7-12-7 Phinching (3) 2 PS2 BERTLEY MARKER £3P (6,5) M LOYS 6-12-0 SHawmer (7) 3 CUIS DAMERS TREASURE 38P (6,5) M Sprinces 11-12-0 M Hards (7) 4 -111 DARTON RI ZPP (6,5) Mrs S Marce 14-12-0 J Marce (7) 5 SPP POLYDERUSS 28P R Rabesard 11-12-0 R Rabesard (7) 6 -1P1 TRUE FORTUNG 14P (6,5) J Moon 7-12-0 D S Jones (7) 7 216F VERY DARWES 3.1 Phint 7-12-0 Marc 5 Starpar (7) 8 3QU JELLY INDIGES P theisbur 5-11-2 P. Scott (7) 8 3QU JELLY INDIGES P theisbur 5-11-2 P. Scott (7) 6-4 Prinza Buck 9-4 Darbon RI 5-1 Time Fortaine, 10-1 Darbons Treasure, 16-1 Very Darbon, Kallyton, 20-1 Bentley Marcz, Polydenous. 8.20 ARTTHUR HUTT V C MEMORIAL NATIONAL HUNTT FLAT RACE (\$1,028: 2m) (22) 1 AMOSUSPH C Grooks 5-11-4 G Back (7)
6.20 6TH FOOT HANDICAP HURDLE SKY (22,353: 2m 4f 110yd) (6)	2 DARK HORSE C Brooks 5-11-4 M Borry (7) 3 MY FREND BELLYT Bit 5-11-4 L Aspet (3) 4 D CLD MAN OF RAMAS 100 Miss C Crare 5-11-4 P Mining (3) 5 STARDANTE R Les 5-11-4 P Mining (3) 5 STARDANTE R Les 5-11-4 P Mining (3) 5 STARDANTE R Les 5-11-4 P Mining (3)

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11	CEDRIC TU	DORPHA	Hell 4-10-1.		L Softern Mr T McCarl D Fork Iss L Boowel
12	DOUG BYG	Ma J Pan	u 4-10-13.		D Foot i
13 14	DUNSTOR	SLICK B Pa	ecz 4-10-1.		as L Boares
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· 16	AND TON M	ATTE C FINA	and A.10.1		A Bailes Stant Stranger
17	MINERELLE	D Walteres	5-10-13		Mr. S. Correct
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JOCKEYS: R Demenosty, 34 visities from 80 rides, 42.5%; A P McCoy, 13 tem 35, 37.7%; J Osbana, 15 tem 76, 20.5%; R Johnson, 10 tem 49, 20.4%; C Llewsbya, 8 trem 41, 19.5%; T Jenies; 8 from 41, 19.5%.

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COURSE SPECIALISTS

4.00 TESTERS OF EDEMBRIDGE MADER STAKES

4 - UU TES PERS OF EDENBRIDGE MANBER STAKES

(DIV L 53,915: 1m 21): (13 THATRES)

1 (12) 62: \$\text{Busist REAPSORY \$88 TC. Heady Lady Hundes 4-b-12} DO'Shea 66

2 (5) FAGLE DIVINER 487 (5 Shebay) Lady Hundes 4-b-12 A Clark

3 (1) JOLYS SOR (C Backerlind) M Shepas 4-b-12 K Fellon

4 (20) 00 VICTOR BARN \$7 48 Del Housto) C Hough 4-b-12 W Syran 63

5 (5) 0- CAMOUNA 375 341 (16 Shebay 10 Abushas 4-b-17 A Regione 64

6 (6) 0-0 CRAMEN MALE 28 (2001 Swelden) M Scales 3-b-11 A Regione 64

7 (2) 35: ESHTIAAL 191 (85) \$1.44 Abitional J Divines 3-b-11 D (Tourshoote (3) TO (3) (10) 2 SA-AMANH 25 (10) Regione 64 Divines 3-b-11 D (Tourshoote (3) TO (3) (10) 2 SA-AMANH 25 (10) Regione 65 3-b-11 D (10) 2 SA-AMANH 25 (10) Regione 65 3-b-11 D (10) 2 SCA-AMANH 25 (10) Regione 65 3-b-11 D (10) 2 SCA-AMANH 25 (10) Regione 65 3-b-11 D (10) CONFO (16) Regione 65 3-b-11 D (16)

FORM FOCUS

DANIESH ENGUESTICA OF THE STREET STRE

15-8 Above The Oct. 11-4 Lucky Arches, 5-1 Majosuberg, Saint Ciel, 7-1 offers. 5.50 HACKLE NOVICE CHASE (£2,770: 2m) (9) 1 5560 ALOSALI 40 (D.F.G.I J Cultum 10-11-0.
1 FOR ALOSALI 40 (D.F.G.I J Cultum 10-11-0.
2 P.PP CLAMBERLAND YOUTH 75 Miss C Caron 6-11-1. I Lawrence
3 PPP3 HUSH DAMELS 5 (G) C Heately 9-11-0. Miss A Damley (7)
4 GE23 OLD REDWOOD 5 Mrs I Williamson 10-11-0. G Lientelfy
5 GE44 WHOD OF THOOGHT IT 31 P Cambrings 8-11-0. Mrs B Booms (2)
6 GPP4 LOY FIRSEBURY 14 R J Proc 7-10-3. Miss A Processor (3)
7 ZE90 ALOSE MISS 3 (D.F.) O'SES 5-10-1. Misshad Benome (3)
8 342U SERDE INTA 15 (F) D Arbeited 5-10-8. Misshad Benome (3)
9 FA45 VERGE INTA 15 (F) D Arbeited 5-10-8. Misshad Benome (3)
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9 FA45 VERGE INTA 15 (F) D Arbeited 5-10-8. Misshad Benome (3) 5-2 Secury Petrel, 3-1 Vente Luss. Alpine Mist. 8-1 Lady Rosebury, 10-1 offices 6.20 6TH FOOT HANDICAP HURDLE SKY 1 3130 (1090 MCMUSETT (015) 17 (S) J Newite 7-11-12... A P MoCoy 2 P111 CHEF MILLSE 17 (015) F Jordan 4-11-2... J Osbonie 3 0801 CREUS COLLUNS 19 (91) J Jankes 7-11-1 ... S 6404 PRINCE (015) CT (115) CREUS (016) CT (115) CREUS (016) C 6-4 Coef Masse, 4-1 Lend McMurrough, Carons Colours, Sugar Rapier, 8-1 others 6.50 HOVICE HURDLE (52,761: 2½m) (19 SKY O. OU NOVICE HURDLE (52,761: 2½m) (19 SSA)

1 OI SIS DAWN 21 (63 A Newcombs 5-11-1 Pheniny (3)

2 D- ALREBMARLE 429 I Forsier 6-11-0 J Oshomo

3 5542 ARCRIC TREMPH 7 (8,5 M Bactaba 6-11-0 Pheniny

4 8 BET WILTSHIPE 25 Mrs. N Macaday 5-11-0 S Wyoda

5 43-P SLAZMS DOVE 50 AF Price 6-11-0 S Wyoda

6 552 BLOWARD ROCK 10 Mrs. H Keepin 5-11-0 J Callety

7 00-5 CROCCOMMON 11 155 K Reporter 6-11-0 M Marason

8 1 EBGE AREAD 120 (61 T Reprison Jones 7-11-4 R Durrectory

5 1-42 GAMAY 569 (5) M Machell 7-11-0 C Livrediyn

10 15-7 GRATOM 70 P Reporter 7-11-0 C Livrediyn

11 /P-P HARRISCION HURDREDS 789 6 Bactery 7-11-0 A P McCov

12 PP LEPHOT 42 P Richards 7-11-0 G Upton

13 F404 LABURREIM GOLD 25 Mrs J Plansa 6-11-0 D Leslry

14 20-0 MR BOLMKELS 45 Wilsons 6-11-0 R J Victorial

15 US44 PPLINES 28 6 Hubbard 5-11-0 R J Victorial

16 00 SURPRISE CITY 64 A J Wilson 6-11-0 C Webb (5)

17 6405 DERRORS FILOS 40 J Rectargo 7-10-9 Miss J Wilsonshi (7)

18 4052 SUPPEME TROCLIDIYTE 61 C Moduck 5-10-9 J R Kavazagh

19 0-40 TULLOW LADY 107 0 Brancan 6-10-9 Miss J Wilsonshi (7)

18 4052 SUPPEME TROCLIDIYTE 61 C Moduck 5-10-9 J R Kavazagh

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Yalaietanee, the Greenham Stakes winner, is among five British contenders for the French 2,000 Guineas at Longchamp tomorrow

Daylami can repel strong raiding party

THE Dubai Poule d'Essai des Poulains and the Pouliches. (the two French Guineas) at Longchamp tomorrow have a disappointing turnout with just seven runners in each event. The two classics look more like the English Guineas, with more than half of the ronners British-trained.

In the Poule d'Essai des Poulains, the British raiders look to have more than a fair chance of beating the French opposition. The Clive Brittaintrained Fantastic Fellow, who won his trial, the Prix Djebel, last month, is expected to put up a bold show. Fantastic Fellow has improved since his last race," Brittain said. "John Reid came down on Saturday and was very happy with the horse's condition. He has a good turn of foot so it doesn't matter where he is put in the

Another serious contender is Yalaietanee, trained by Michael Stoute, who beat

C125 40 CSF C24.68 Tricest C278.69.
2.50 (5i) 1, PRINCE FOLEY (D McGelfin, 2-1); 2. Smooth Sailing (J Red., 7-4 tay); 3. Whisely Mack (Dane O'Neil, 3-1) ALSO RAN. 7 High Money (5th), 14 Hightony Legend, 16 Basic Style (6th), 20 English Laily (4th), Sergeant time, 50 Solway Lass. 9 ran. 194, nk, 1-4, 2/5, 7. W G M Tumer at Sherborne Tote: C3.20; £1.40, £1.40

2.1 SU, UP: 123 NU. 190. (20.30 CSF: 20.21. 3.20 (7) 140 yel) 1. LILLI CLASSE (T. Sprake, 8-1); 2. Crown Court (J. Reid, T.3-8 isa); 3. Chewit (Candy Monts, 15-8), ALSO RAN-5 White Flock (Sh), 7 Al Abrag, 25 Lynion Lod (48h), Move With Edes (6th), 7 ran. 4, 7, 41, 21, 81. A Foster of Lambourn. Total: 16.80, 55.80, 51.60. DF: 523.30. CSF: 21.04

3.50 (1m 2f) 1, MONO LADY (A Clark, 10-1); 2, Calendale (G Carles, 10-1); 3.

RICHARD EVANS

Nap: GROUND GAME

(4.10 Wolverhampton tomorrow)

Next best Mythical

2.10 Wolverhampton

(worrow)

Whitewide Elsie (R Price, 25-1), ALSO RAK: 15-8 fav Bubble Wings (6th), 9-2 Missos (4th), 7 Classic Beauty, Shanghai Li, 14 Pearl Deam, Sendicible, 25 Alsura, Bibs, Efficacious (6th), 12 rst. 6, 1%, 5, rst. 10 D Havdin Jones at Penshyrold, Tote: P15-00, E2-40, E4-30, E7-20, DF: 841-20 into 6488-70 (peri worn, poor of 588-84 camed forward to 3-45 at Beverley boday) CSF 256-85 Troast 92,186-49

Lingfield Park

FROM LIZ PRICE IN PARIS

Revoque in the Greenham Stakes and will appreciate the soft ground. The Godolphinowned Bahamian Bounty is hoping to get a better run here than he did in the Dewhurst Stakes at Newmarket, where he finished fourth.

On form, he is definitely a threat, having already beaten Zamindar and Fantastic Fellow last term. Nevertheless, this can go to the Aga Khan's Daylami, who won the Prix de Fontainebleu impressively two weeks ago. This likeable colt is an entry for the Derby at Epsom and should not be underestimated.

Criquette Head is seeking revenge with Always Loyal in the Dubai Poole de Essaie des Pouliches, having lost out in the 1.000 Guineas with Pas De Reponse. But she is facing tough competition as five English-trained fillies are in

The tan Balding-trained Seebe, second in the Fred Darling Stakes, must be respected, while Red Camellia and the two Godolphin horses, Nightbird and Star Profile. will be making their seasonal

Chapple-Hyam saddles Dances With Dreams. The Manton trainer said: "We are tilting at windmills in this race, but she will appreciate the soft ground." Although there are only two French fillies competing, they can dominate the finish, with Always Loyal taken to confirm

her narrow course and dis-

reappearance after showing

useful form last year. Peter

tance victory over Mousse Glacee Only five runners line up for the third group one race of the day, the Prix Lupin. In the absence of any British contenders, the André Fabretrained Cloudings should be hard to beat. He has already beaten Astarabad and the soft ground will be to his

LONGCHAMP TOMORROW BBC2

Ģ	OING	3: SO	FT	DRAW: NO ADVANTAGE
				ESSALDES POULICHES 133: 1m) (7 numers)
2	(3) (4)	11-2	HOUSSE GLACEE	71 (CD,G,S) (M al-Melanum) Mirre C Head 9-0 F Hea 27 (CD,BF,S) (G Biozaniz) J Lesburdes 9-0
-	14	16	DAMPER WE'LL DOC	SALE 174 JES JES & Editoria & Littleman B Chamble Mann (CS) & A 1 Co.

BETTRIE: 5-4 Almags Loyal, Rightheri and Shar Profile (fines complet) on pay-contuel), 9-4 Mousse Glacce 5-1 Red Canodia, 6-1 Seete, 16-1 Dennes With Onatros

3.15 DUBAI POULE D'ESSAI DES POULAINS (Group I: 3-Y-O: £112,233: 1m) (7 runners)

[4]	112-1	DAYLAMI 21 (CO.G.S) (H Aga Krom) A De Rojer-Dupite 9-2
ä	41-1	YALAFTANEE 22 (F,S) (M al-Maisoure) M Shoule (GS) 9-7
66)	21114	BAHAMAN BOUNTY 205 (BF.F.G) (Godelphan) S bar Surger (GB) 9-2 L Distor
(3)	31-1	VISIONARY 16 (C.G.S.) (J. Lagradere) A Fabre 9-2 7 James
হো	13-1	ICEOS 14 (C.S) (Nanctes tamb) J Hammond 9-2
m	144-1	FANTASTIC FELLOW SO (6,5) (Thoroughbred Corporation) C Britain (GB) 9-2 J Reid
ö		LOUP SALWAGE 21 (CD,5) (D Widdenstein) A Fabre 9-2 D Peste
NG.	7-4 Days	on, 2-1 Yakastanse & Bahamian Bouncy (coupled), 4 Louis Sawage, 6-1 Visionary, 10-1
stic f	ellow, 16,	1 Kens.
•		CODE: ACTIVAL SEE C. S. P. Marcon, J. E. Loui, A. Do. Stoney Physics, 107 cm.

3.45 PRIX LUPIN (Group I: 3-Y-0: £52,700: 1m 2f 110yd) (5 runners)

1-22 ASTARABAD 21 (BF.G) (Apa Khatal A De Proper Dupre 9-2 41-1 CLDUDMES 41 (CD.F.S) (Sheith Mohammed) A Fatare 9-2. 18-1 IALLMESK 73 (D.S.) (Lagarden) A Fatare 9-2. 18-341 ZEMITH ROSE 21 (CD.S) (A Maller 9 Lenoque 9-2 2-51 ELEOS 24 (D.6) (S Marchos) M Clement 9-2. rabed, 11-8 Cloudings, 7-2 Kalimedt, 7-1 Elecs, 14-1 Zesah Rost 1998: HELISSID 9-2 D Boeul (2-5 lan) E Lettosche 5 ran

Deadly Dudley, trained by Richard Hannon, was a late withdrawal yesterday from the Dubai Poule d'Essai des Poulains because of a setback. Mary Lowe, a spokeswoman for the owners, Lucayan Stud, said: "He was lame this morning."

GOING: GOOD TO FIRM

advantage.

1 3341 FASTOLETT 26 IC.P.W.McI

,337	Digital Life To Mali & Manageri 2-11-1-4-4- 8 11	,
2064	FTFRIME CITY 15 (G) 6 Richards 6-11-7	Resnet (
0P64	CAPPRIOREY 28 J Sistemon 9-11-0	. S Tayl
0340	COMEL FACTOR 25 Mis M REMAIN /-11-0	60
SSF	FREDEXLY SOCIETY 8 W Storey 11-11-0 F	R McGu
41P1	MESTER TROCK SO (B.D.F.S) L Lange 7-11-0 W D.	orden (
0332	PAPPA CHARLE 26 C Paries 6-11-0	. F Lea
-PPP	RYE RIM 53 J Amsley 6-11-0 8 6	Statten (
DOPP	TARYAN JOY 28 J A Moore 6-11-0	kinson (
B500	MEADOWNLECK 15 W Young 8-10-9	lardine (
4464	THORNTOLEN ESTATE 12F (V) M Todhurer 4-10-7	
	C McCa	reack (
della.	4-1 Pages Charles 5-1 Mister Trick, 13-2 Chill Factor, 8	-1 Etem
CLI The	embrus Estato 20-1 Commoney 25-1 others	
	2064 0964 0340 88F 41P1 0332 -PPP 00PP 8500 4404	2054 ETERNAL CITY 15 (5) 6 Richards 6-71-7 R 0PS4 CARRAMOREY 28 4 Schrapp 9-11-0. 0PS4 CARRAMOREY 28 4 Schrapp 9-11-0. 0PS4 CARRAMOREY 28 4 Schrapp 9-11-0. 0PS6 CARL FACTOR 28 MS Norry 11-11-1. 0PS5 REBURLY SOCIETY 8 W Soury 11-11-1. 0PS5 REBURLY SOCIETY 8 W Soury 11-11-1. 0PS5 REPTA CHARGLE 26 C Paristr 8-11-0. 0PS7 RATION 107 25 1 A Moore 6-11-0. 0PS7 RATION 107 25 1 A MOORE 11-0. 0PS7 RATION 107 25 1 A M

Placepot: 277.70.

Geingr good to firm, good in places
2.00 (2m 51 110yd hidle) 1, Toshiba Talk
(C. McConneck, 16-1): 2, Catch The
Pigeon(5-2): 3, Royal York (11-10 fav), 8
sn. 5, 9, 8, B Ellison, Tota: £11.80: £2.30,
£1.20, £1.00, DF; £19.00, CSF, £48.52 230 (2m St 110)(d hdle) 1, Shelton Abbey (P Carbern; 12-1); 2, Barton Heights (11-8 (so); 3, Royal Hand (20-1); 9 ran, Ni., 2, J Wade, Tote 93-40; 21-90, 61-10, 613-30 DF 511-60, Trio 555-70. CSF: 227-00 Tricaet 6310.73

CSF 596 85 Tricast 22.186 49
4.20 (71) 1. PROCK FALCON (A Clark, 33-1); 2. Galo (Angele Catemore, 25-1); 3. Night Express (M Rammer, 12-1) ALSO RAN 4-5 (av laustonal, 9-4 Gherb (481), 12 Monagod (581), 20 Pinnee Zando (682), 33 Barbury Ballad, Shasp Deed, 66 Pjrrig Colours Lufte Anne, My Gar Lucy -12 can. 184, 81, 194, 11, 194, Ludy Hernes at Littlehamoton Tote ESS 30, 54 70, 53 00, 52 10. DE CR6 80. Trio CSS3.50 CSF-CSS6 67 USS2 67

4.50 (70.1.) PRAEDITUS (Dane O'Neil, 7-4
tas): 2. Pentect Pai IN Day, 11-2; 3. Regal
Thursder (K. Darky 9-4); ALSO RAN; 6.
March Chusader (14th; 16 Secret Strength,
Such Bottmers: 20 Balton Lady (6th), 33
Ander (5th), Keen Companion, 86 Durable
George 100 Fancy Design, Miss Ing. 12
George 100 Fancy Design, Miss Ing. 12
tan, Ni, 110 1-1, 6; hd. R. Harmon al East
Estribush Tote, £3 20 £1 40, £2 00, £1.70.
UF, £12 60 Thur Est 20, \$57; £10 90. Jackpot: not won (pool of £10,783,03 catried forward to Bevertey today). Placepot £3,537.00. Quadrot £846.60 (par won; pool of £571.59 carried trivard to Beverley today).

Carlisle Going: good to soft, soft in places

210 (S) 1, MRST BRIDGE (T Lucas, 7-4 Flay); 2 Prix Star it Charmock 11-4); 3. Alconleigh is Vicenar 7-4 Flay), ALSO Cuedpot 2278.70.

23-40, CSF: 27-41.
240, ESF: 208y(2)-1, ALLINSON'S MATE (Victoria Applety, 7-2); 2, Coecoroba (P. Fassey, 8-1); 3, Flist Gold (G. Duffeld, 8-1), ALSO, RAN: 6-4 fav. Brocuma. Gold (Stil), 7-2 Kenno Sabo (Ath), 8 Chemnagne On fee, 12 My Handsome Prince (Stil), 25 Indian Seremada, 8 an. 194. 194. 48. 48. 42. 7. Berron at Thirsk. Tote: £8-40; £2-00; £2-50, £2-00. \$2.50, \$2.00, DF: \$44.70, CSF: \$22.81.
3.10 (7/ 2/4yd) 1, JACK THE LAD (. Chamock, 6-1); 2, Abejany (P. P. Murphy, 4-1); 3, Petitle Risk: (J. Bremhill, 33-1).
ALSO RAN: Evens law Carloucha, 7.
Sarnspat (Stin), 10 Mag Uno, 12 Beau Roberto, Fauna (4th), Streikza, Tycoon-Tine (8th), 16 Emily-Jeyne, 11 ran, \$4, 4, id, 3, 11, J. Hetherion: et. Metion, Tota: 57.70; \$1.60, \$1.80, \$12.30, OF: \$9.20.
Trio: \$1.65.70 (part wort; pool of \$93.65 camed forward to 3.45 at Beverley todey).
CSF \$24.63, Tricast; \$1743.09,
3.40 (ST 2077xh) 1, BERCHWOOD SUN U.

Going good to soft (buft); standard (AM)

1.50 (Im) 1. PENGAMON (J Cuim), 3-1 ilbuf; 2. Barchart (Candy Monts, 20-1); 3.

Sweet Supposin (L Detton, 15-2); ASS

Sweet Supposin (L Detton, 15-2); ASS

RAN: 3-1 ji-les Farmost, 7 Flestet The Force
(Ath), 15-2 Prime Light, Strip, Young

Annabel, 12 ki Ch. Saga (Strip, Checons
Boy, 16 Soelang, 25 Hausei Storm, Sand

Star. 12 ran. Hd., 34, 294, 88, 48, 14

Collingadge at Newmarket Tota: D4.80;
22.30; 25.00; 21.50. DF 254.20. Trice
1288 (B), CSF 275.88. Trices E404 89,
220 (Sh) 1, FLINS IN THE FAMELY (D

Harrison, 8-1); 2. Willow bale (T Cuim, 7-2

Jan; 3, Polly Golfpridy (K Darley, 14-1).

ALSO RAN: 8 Half Tone, John O'Dreams

(4th), 10 Majas (8th), 1885, [Sh), 14

Shawasky, Third Party, 16 Alimchace, 20

Dointee, Superlab, 25 Baptismal Flock, 13

ran NR: Demong Hystery, 41, 141, nd. 2,
shhd G McCourt et Warriage, Tota: 25.90;
22.30, c1.40, 24.70, OF 29.80. Trice
125.40 CSF: 224.68 Tricest: 2273.69.
250 (5f) 1, PRINCE FOLEY (D McGelfin, CSF E34.63. Tricast £743.09.
3.40 (5f 207yd) 1, BIRCH-NOOD SUN (J. Weaver, 92 k. layt, 2, Armon (T E Durcan, 5-1); 3, Rymer's Rascal (J. Fortune, 92 k. layt, ALSO RAN: 5 Stephenson Rocket Sch), 11-2 Botto Dorothy, 13-2 Nalesant, 8 Kd Ory (8th), 9 Needle March, 11 Rying Harold (4th), 12 Mest Respectful 10 ran. NY: Breconge Led. 134, 344, 144, 14, nk. M Dods et Derington. Tota: £5.80 £1.80, 51.20, 51 CSF-129.11. Tricast £108.19.
4.10 (5), 1. CORNICHE QUEST (P. P. Murphy, 7-1 isn); 2. Ataan (D. McKeown, 7-1); 3. Skyers Flyer (T. Williams, 3-1). ALSO RAN: 9-2. Shadow Juny (4th), 7. Petraco (5th), Sing With The Band, 9. Torroto (6th), 12 Luner Music, 14 Answers-16-Thomas, Red Romanoe, 10 rar. 1141, 1141, 51, nk, 21. M. Chemnon at Upper Lamboum. Tota: 22.80; £1.80. DF: £1.50. Tricx £2.80; £3.00. CSF: £1.80. DF: £1.500. Tricx £2.80; £3.00.

£18.60.

4.40 (Im 68 32yd) 1, ALL ON (6 Duffield. 11.4 law); 2, Highfield Fizz (I. Chamock. 12.1); 3, Well Appointed (J Carroll, 11.2). ALSO FAM: 4 Tornerre (4th), 9-2 Lord Hastie (6th), 11.2 Tribly, 8 Charily Crusader (5th), 12 Rockses, 16 Lady Swift. 9 rar. 9, 8, 84, 344, 21. J Hatherton at Melion. Tota: £3.20; £2.40, £5.50, £2.70. DF. £32.10. Tric: £151.00 (part wort, pool of £72.83) carried forward to 3,45 at Beverley today) CSF: £40.08. Tricust £169.43.

Quadoot £9.10.

Sedgefield

Tricast 5310.73.
3.00 (2m 110)d ch) 1, Lepton (R Garrity, 33-11); 410-5 A Dancer (5-2); 3, Suntails Shine (50-1), Moss Pegearn 9-4 fav. 11 rsn. 234, 9; 3 Curlis, Toler 545 00; 53-10, 51-20; 62-60 DF: 595.70 Thr 5281.70.
CSF. 138.78.
3.30 (3m 3f ch) 1, Jimmy O'Dea (E Husband; 25-1); 2, Jaunty Sig (14-1); 3, Jender (12-1), 10 rsn. 5, 7i. J Macket Toler 529.10; 5520, 5340, 5740. DF: 557.10. Tric 548.20. CSF 5286.33.
Tincest 52,968.03.

Incest: ±3,968.03 4.00 (2m 3f cb) 1, Greenmount Led (Mr P Comforth, 5-Q; 2, What Chance (9-4); 3, Knowe Head (13-8 fav), 6 ran 41, 191 J Comforth, Tota: £2.50; £1.80, £1.90 DF: £2.20, CSF: £8.39. 4.30 (2m 11-hdle) 1, Fanishalkhair (C. McCormack, 5-4 lav); 2, Eden Dancer (7-2); 3, Jendorast (7-1), 7 ran Mk, 13, 8 Bisson, Tose: £1.90, £1.20, £2.70, DF: £3.10, CSF £3.69.

RACING NEXT WEEK

MONDAY: Redear Hast race, 2 (5), Southwell (AM, 2.30), Windson (Sky, 6.00), Towords (Sky, 5.45) WEDNESDAY: Logicki Park (AN, 2-15), York (CA, 2-05), Hereford (1-55), Huntingdon 6-05, Perm 6-20) TUESDAY: York (C4. 2 C5), Chepston (1.50) 10.00) PC 10.201 THURSDAY: Salishury 2:15), York (C4, 2.05), Perin (1.55).

IMPRISDAY: Satisfacty 2:15), York (C4, 2:05), Perth (1:55).

FRIDAY: Newbury: 28C. 2:10). Newmarket (2:00), Thirok (2:15), Aintee (Sky, 5:45), Followy: 4:50). Satisfacty (Sky, 6:00). Healthor Park (Sky, 6:15): Newbury (2:00), Satisfacty: Linguist Park (Sky, 5:15): Newbury (2:00), Newbury: (2:25). Eargor (1:50).

Simply: Newbury: (88C. 2:00), Signor (2:15), Falamham (2:20).

Supplied Supplied 7-p to 5p.

THUNDERER

2.20 PENSHER DOORS LTD CONDITIONAL JOCKEYS NOVICES (FURDLE (£2,364; 3m) (11 runners)

2.50 pensher security doors LTD NATIONAL HURT NOVICES HURDLE (22,607: $2\pi)$ (12)

| HEAPT MOVICES HUMBOLE (22,607: 2m) (12)
| 1 | 411: SLVER MIRK 28 (D.F.E.S) Mes M Revoloy 5-11-12. P Mives
| 2 | 4512 | 90LD STATEMENT 17 (CD.BF.E.S) & M Mixore 5-11-12. P Mives
| 3 | 40 | BUCKLET HOUSE 7 / Charloo 5-11-0. R Williamon (5)
| 4 | 5 | CHARDY MAN 5 Mes 5 South 5-11-0. R Williamon (5)
| 5 | 600-6 | EDSTONE 7 / J.Carls 5-11-0. R Williamon (5)
| 6 | 6 | ELIDIT THE BUTLER 40 Mes 5 South 5-11-0. R South
| 7 | 600-7 | MIRKEN SAM 40 / Selection 1-1-0. R South
| 8 | 63-3 STARLM SAM 40 / Selection 1-1-0. R Gently
| 9 | 100-8 | MEAPT / 2 Carls 5-11-0. R Gently
| 10 | 100-8 MAREER ROLLY 10 / Jione 1-10-9. R Gently
| 11 | 300-5 SALEM BEACH / 28 M Technology 1-10-9. R Gently
| 12 | WAMER LAUE M Beach 4-10-4. S Taylor (5)
| 2-1 | Bold Statument 3-1 Silver Mire, 10-1 Buckley House, Clearlol Man, Elicti The Battler, Startic Sam, (2-1 Weapons Frac, 10-1 orlers.

3.20 BISHOPS SKINNER NORTHERN LTD NOVICES CHASE (£3,233: 3m 1f) (10)

3.50 LORD'S TAVERNERS SELLING HURDLE (£1,801: 2m) (9)

5-2 Palaze Of Gold, 3-1 Nonice, 8-1 Kastroma, 7-1 Sucelja, 8-1 Trotao, Noir Espril, 17-1 In A Moment, 20-1 offers.

4.20 IAN STRAKER MEMORIAL TROPHY HANDICAP CHASE (£2,898: 2m 110yd) (6)

1 3402 WHAAT FETNE 10 C.F.E.S) 6 Rubards 12-12-0 P Morat
2 306F TWEN FALLS 7 (B.D.F.C.S) 6 M Moore 6-11-8 N Berkey
3 2513, TAPATICH 14 (D.B.F.E.S) M W Extently 9-11-0 P Carbony
4 1062 CARDENOEN 7 (D.B.F.E.S) J Berkey 9-10-0 S Shory
5 6040 SUPER SANDY 37 (D.S.) F Welton 10-10-0 K Johnson
6 (PM) SUPERMARDNE 10 B Micrograph 11-10-0 G Lee 5-4 Witgal Feitle, 4-1 Tapatch, 5-1 Twin Falls, Cardenden, 7-1 others.

4.50 BISHOPS SKUNNER NORTHERN LTD HANDICAP HURDLE (22,404: 2m 41 110yd) (6)

POP MOREOF A GIRNER 15 (D.S.) Justesson 7-11-10. R Sanity
2 P41 RASCALLY 33 (DD.F.S.) Miss 1, Storag 7-11-10. M Foster
3 2333 HIGHLAND WAY 3 (E.S.) M Technise 9-11-4 C McCommack (7)
4 ASSI DRIAG GHOOPY 14 (B.CD.F.S.) | Part 8-11-1. M South
5 04-6 JUMBO 57AR 195 (F.) J Dean 7-10-8. B Storay
6 0040 DONT FORSET CAPIES 10 Miss Klamb 5-10-1 Miss 6 Lamb (7) 2-1 Highbord Way, 11-4 Russally, 13-2 Morrool A Genser, Kinda Gooby, Joseph Star, Conf Forget Certis.

COURSE SPECIALISTS TRANSFRS: L. Lumpo. 22 weeners brost 64 reariers. 26.2%; G. Rachkels, 19 from 78, 24.4%, G. M. Moore, 14 from 67, 20.5%; Mess M. Reveley, 10 from 61, 19.6%; W. McKenne, 3 from 17, 77.6%; JOCKEYS. N. Bentley, 14 witners from 48 ndee, 29.2%; P. Riven, 22 from 68, 25.4%, G. Gestien, 3 from 13, 23.1%; E. Carlaghan, 4 from 18, 22.2%; P. Carberry, 4 from 18, 22.2%; T. Read, 20 from 110, 18.2%.

BLBNGERED FIRST TIME TODAY: Beverley: 2.45 None. 3.15
Wirsson. 4.45 Lawful Love, Hexhant: 3.50 Norths Lingilatel Parts:
3.00 Michael Verture. Popus. Newton Abbot: 7.35 Barrow Snest,
Flowing Fiver. Warwick: 7.50 Damers Treesure. Worcester: 3.10
Our Robert. 4.40 Belter Future.

NEWTON ABBOT

6.05 Embankment, 6.35 Gladys Emmanuel, 7.05 Brave Tomado. 7.35 King Torus. 8.05 Tight Fist. 8.35 Apachee Flower. Carl Evans: 7.35 King Torus.

GOING: GOOD (GOOD TO SOFT IN PLACES)

6.05 NEWTON ABBOT RACECOURSE SKY CORPORATE CLUB NOVICES HURDLE (£2,934: 2m 1l) (6 numers) 4421 EMBANGURM 75 07 In Henderson 7-11-6 ... M. A. Fitzgand 1
5 TARRASON 735 0 Sentrood 7-11-0 A. McCarthy
7 WESTERN PLANSON 87 Rober 5-11-0 Y. States
1 DOP FINAL SCORE 70 G Paining 5-11-0 ... T Descombs
0 MEARLY A SCORE 70 G Paining 5-10-9 IF Titley
PRESS ASAM 148F P Hayward 5-10-9 R Fertion

8-11 Enthanthment. 7-2 Taxagon. 8-1 Nearly A Score. 12-1 others 6.35 HORSES AWAY RACING CLUB HANDICAP CHASE (£2,833; 2m 1:0yd) (6)

1 PO34 BEAU BARBLIARD 28 (B.D.G.S) P Nicholis 10-11-18 M A Fitzgardd

2 5142 BISHOPS CASTLE 10 (F.B.S) R Frost 9-10-7 ... J Frost

3 -521 EVENING RAW 28 (CD.F.G.S) R Hodges 11-10-3 ... T Desconder

4 (Aut) GLADYS BAMANLE 14 (D.S) R Ponds 10-10-0 D J Knewnegh 5)

3 3913 THATS THE LEFT A (D.B.F.R.S.) T George 12-10-0 ... B Fonton

6 FPSF TAMEO'S DELIGHT 25 (G) R Rater 9-10-0 ... V Statlery 9-4 Reput Republished, 3-1 Bishops Castle, 7-2 Evening Rain, 5-1 others

7.05 CARL NEKOLA MEMORIAL HANDICAP HURDLE (£3,339: 2m 60) (7)

1 2184 ECHO DE JANSER 205 (G) A Hobbs 5-12-0 ... B Breene
2 -510 BRANE TORPIADOS 37 (S) 6 Bairing 6-12-0 ... B Feritor
3 0545 MANNIS CULT 76 (LS) Mics H Kinghi 9-10-7 ... F Titley
4 1922 SLASKET HEROB & (ACUS PF, C) Mics S Millers 8-10-4 B Torney
5 5135 RHYTHM AND BLUES 25 (S) R Bucklet 7-10-0 ... G Supple (S)
6 0501 COUNTRY TARDIAN DS (D.5) R Hodges 5-10-0 ... T Descombe
7 -2PD TOMBEY COUNTRY 88 (B) Mics 9 Warng 6-10-0 ... E Byrne
7-4 Brave Torondo, 7-2 Marking Da, 5-1 Blasted Hero, 7-1 Rhythin And Blues, 8-1
Echo De Janses, Country Taroxin, 18-1 Torniny Dooper

7.35 TOTNES AND BRIDGETOWN **HOVICES HUNTERS CHASE** (Amateurs: £1,050; 2m 5l 110yd) (14)

1 F212 MISTER HOPATIO 8 (6.5) W Lowe, 7-12-7 ... M Lewis (7) 2 IRLP TORES (2008) STAR 4 (0.5) G Carles 9-12-7 Toleross (7) 3 -173 RULL AURT 149 (6.5) Mess 7 Young 9-12-2 Miss 5 Young (1) 4 -521 HERHORSE 59 (00.5) Miss A Howard-Chapper 10-12-2 (1) 1-12-2

11-4 Misser Horatio, 13-2 Methorse, Mybarnel, 8-1 Ving Torus, 10-1 Fell Aint. Tickel To The Moon, 12-1 Toro's Germin Star, Barrow Street, 16-1 others.

8.05 HAPPY 50TH BIRTHDAY RICHARD BRINSLEY NOVICES CHASE (£3,404: 2m 110yd) [8) 11-8 Locky Edois, 3-1 Tight Fist, 11-2 Bally Cruss, 8-1 Run With Juy, 12-1 Stee Point, 14-1 Tom's Apache, 20-1 Rests: Flight, Straton Flyes

8.35 BLAZE OF GLORY HANDICAP HURDLE (£1,944: 3m 3f) (11)

1 F-R3 PERSIAN VEW 11 (CD.G.S) K Balley 7-11-10 Mr R Waldey (7)
2 08F5 AMELIONAREMORRES 7 (CD.F.S) Mrs B Walney 7-10-9 E Byrthe
3 5462 APACHEE FLOWER 3 (G) K House 7-10-7 Mr A Filtegrand
4 APAS MICK THE DREAMER 16 (C.F.E.S) W 6 M Terriso 12-10-4
Williamson 77 5 5000 WHITEBORNET 8 (8.5) C Eprino 7-10-2 Sophie Milchell (3) 6 3339 TIESPI CLAW 21 (7.6) A hoteb 17-10-2 Sophie Milchell (3) 6 3339 TIESPI CLAW 21 (7.6) A hoteb 17-10-2 To becoming 8 0060 LOUGHOOD 14 R Les 9-10-0 To becoming 9 0060 LOUGHOOD 14 R Les 9-10-0 S British 10 -602 BAYLORD PRINCE SU (7.5) J A Even 9-10-0 G Torritor 11 331F PURISCE POLLY 427 (7) N National 7-10-0 M Griffiths (7) Province May 2-1 Arministrational May 10 - 10 M Griffiths (7) 1 Province May 2-1 Arministrational May 10 - 10 M Griffiths (7) 2-1 Persian Viane, 7-1 Amelionmentales, Resing's Less, 8-1 Turber Town, 18-1 Apachet Flows, Mick The Documes, Whiteboomes, Tops Clam, 14-1 others

COURSE SPECIALISTS

TRANSPRS: N Handerson, 4 where from 12 numers, 33.3%, P Habbs, 48 from 168, 28.5%, P Nicholts, 34 from 139, 24.5%, C Egerion, 7 from 30, 23.3%, O Sperwood, 7 from 30, 23.3%, O Sperwood, 7 from 30, 23.3%, OCKEYS: B Tombers from 27 nides, 22.2%, B Cillion, 7 from 40, 17.5%, G Supple, 3 from 18, 16.7%, Soprie Metchell, 6 from 42, 14.3%, B Ferrian, 4 from 28, 14.3%.

THREE MEETINGS TOMORROW

BATH

THUNDERER

2.00 TAUFAN'S MELODY (nap). 2.30 Silent Pride 3.00 Silvery. 3.30 Therhea. 4.00 Conspiracy. 4.30 Literary Society. 5.00 Paradise Navy.

Going, good to firm

DRAW: 5F-1M, LOW NUMBERS BEST 2.00 sunday conditions stakes

(£4.409: 1m 3i 144yd) (5 numers) 45 kang Aler 6-1 lapian s Menday 6-1 kaling Sonor, 12-1 Male-Ana-Man, 20-1 lagai Reflection

2.30 TATTERSALLS NOVICE AUCTION STAKES (2-Y-0, £2,869; 51 11yd) (10 tunners) LEPERAL PRINCE IN MEANURE B-12 LARIENT 5 (D.F.) 5 (DOS 9-10 LOTO KINTYRE 9 LEBINGS 6-8 LOTTERNY MERY 6 LENG 8-4 LOTTERNY MERY 6 LENG 8-4 LOTTERNY BARDON R Harron 8-2 COUNTRY 5ARODN R Harron 8-2 LEGGLO 14 LEGGLO 14 LEGGLO

G GYPSY HELL 41 D Haydh Jones 8-3 LEAI TAI 29 Mt. F Dorfaed 8-1 MESS EGUAL I/ Pipe 8-0 3 SULERT PRIOE 16 M Usher 7-13 7-2 Country Gardes, 3-2 Scient Prote, 11-2 Aungry, 8-3 Country Mary, 12-1 Lord Ausgre, 14-1 others

3.00 WILLIE CARSON MAIDEN FILLIES STAKES (3-Y-0: £3,550: 1m 5yd) (15) 8- RLIE LAMP 305 M Janes B-11 — 80 DOYEMSE 12 G Lears B-11 52-3 GRAYVIR 20 RBY J Davidop B-11 48-PRIMA GLEM M (State B-11 MSH LIGHT M Spotte B-11 60-0 SCA ALDOEN 15-1 KANAMA 237 A P Janes B-11 48-MANA 237 A P J SILVERY J Toller 9-11 0-0 SUGAR PLUM 9 R Hanpon 8-11 25- TETROS 181 C Wall 8-11

COURSE SPECIALISTS TRAPERS: R Charlion, 13 winners from 37 minors. 35 1%, M Shoule, 8 from 23, 34 8%; J Berry, 11 from 40, 27.5%, Lord Humbingdon, 6 from 26, 25 1%; J Dunlop, 9 from 44, 20 5%; D Elsworth, 6 from 33, JOCKEYS: D Griffiths, 3 wanters from 13 ndes, 23 1%, Pal Eddery, 22 from 97, 22 7%, W Frant, 4 from 20, 20.0%, 5 Drowne, 10 from 98, 10.2%, Only qualifiers.

BETTBAG. 11-4 Grayyut, 7-2 Irah Light, 4-1 Sellete, 6-1 tisled Account, 7-1 Sugar Pluto, 8-1 Persawae 10-1 Salvary, 12-1 others

3.30 THE MAIL ON SUNDAY MILE HANDICAP

(Qualifier: £7,068; 1m 5yd) (12) Augustifier: £7,068: 170 5y0) (12)

1 250- LAW COMMISSION 204 (F) D Electrit 7-10-0 D Gritions (3) 3

2 201 BROUGHTORS TURNIQUE 11 (D.F.G) B Malman 8-8-11
Dane O'Neil 6

3 -012 KNOGGUEDREZE 3 (V.D.BF.F.G.S) M Charmon 7-8-10
P P Barphy (5) 11 P P Blomphy (5) 117
4 423- SAMOY FLOSS 337 (BF) R But iter 4-8-10... S Dromer 7
5 2-13 HURTLEBERRY 77 (F.G) Lord Hensingdon 4-8-5 Americ Cook 8
6 Do-O PRESS ON MICKY 18 (F) W Mais 4-8-5 ... W Roberts 4
7 9-00 THERHEA 16 (B.D. SS) 8 Millioner 4-8-5 ... I Syrake 1
8 -105 SYLVAN PRINCESS 11 (D.F) D Coopport 4-8-4 Million Dever (3) 10 9 3340 SDOTY TERM 3 (D.F.G.S) J Bandley 10-8-2. R Firench (S) 12 10 2-00 MASTER MILLFIELD 5 (C.F.G) C Hib 5-7-13 F Nortan 9 11 2021 GADGE 8 (D.F.G.S) A Bailey 6-7-10 D Witten 5 12 6-43 MASTER M.E.M. 18 (V.D.F.) N Battage 5-7-10, R Maillen (S) 2 I Broadfort Turmod 5 1 Northername (Termod 5-7-10, R Maillen (S) 2

4-1 Broughtons Turmed 5-1 Knobbleenesse, Gadge 7-1 Hunlieberry, 8-1 Law Commission, Medie M-E-N 10-1 Sandy Floss System Princess, 12-1 others. 4.00 somerset stakes

(Listed race: £10,903, 5) 161yd) (7) 0 Hoterat
1 15-0 ARETHUSA 23 (D.F.G.) R Hazzoo 3-6-8. Dane O'Heal 1
1 321- CONSTRACY 234 (F) J Duntop 3-8-8. Pat Eddery 1
1 5-0 BRIDE'S REPRISAL 15 (F.S.) M Chambo 3-8-4 P P Marphy 1
1 5-0 COMPADARA 8 (S.) C. Chapt 3-8-4. J Sprake 1
1 2-1 DAVNILLE 25 (D.F.G.) J Berry 3-8-4. G Cartes 1 1 Blue tris 7-2 Daywille, 4-1 Consposor, 5-1 Roysle Figurne: 6-1 Austrusa, 8-1 greenwa, 12-1 Blue's Represal

4.30 HOLSTEN PILS HANDICAP

(£5,173 5f 11yd) (9)

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5.00 KATH AND DOUG WOOTTEN BIRTHDAY HANDICAP (£2,869: 2m 11 34yd) (12) ANDICAP (2.2.69): 271 71 34y0) (12)

1. 4-1 PARADISE NAW 19 (9.00) (12)

2. 600 FELDRIDGE 1704 (6.5.6) M Maggaridge 6-10-0 Dane D'Rich 19

3. 30-1 COM SHO NO 31 (6) 5 Doc 4-8-12 . W Risin 1

4. 35-0 DORNY THREE 15 (F.6) R Hotges 7-8-9 S Drowne 5

5. 010- FORTURES COUNSE (3.0 (6) 1 long 6-8-3 R Princip (5) 6

6. 65-5 ROSE OF BLENN 321 (70) f. 6) 8 Pallong 6-7-12 f. Sprake 5

7. 000 BRINGES PRIDE 25 6 Ham 6-7-10 M Ballod (3) 7

9. 02-3 GRNCA 31 / Madles 6-7-10 M Ballod (3) 7

9. 02-3 GRNCA 31 / Madles 6-7-10 N Adams 1

10. 04-0 GENTLEMAN 50 13 (6) P Magles 7-7-10 N Adams 1

11. 02-13 HGSI (PRE 13 (6) R Ingam 6-7-10 M Ballod (3) 7

12. 206 KASHAM 45 (F.5) P Havend 9-7-10 R M Miller (5) 3

2. Paradice Navy 3-1 Coh Sto No. 9-5 Federadge 6-1 Ginta, 7-1 frigh Fire 8-1 5-2 Paradice Navy 3-1 Coh Sho No. 9-2 Fieldindge, 6-1 Gloka, 7-1 High Five 8-1 Domy Tires, 10-1 Fortunes Course, 12-1 other:

☐ The Clive Brittain-trained Needle Gun (Brett Doyle) faces seven rivals in the group one Premio Presidente della Repubblica over ten furlongs at the Capannelle, Rome, tomorrow.

BEVERLEY-

THUNDERER 2.20 Gresatre. 2.50 Dispol Gem. 3.20 Mels Baby 3.50 Campaspe. 4.20 At Large. 4.50 Quiz Master. Our Newmarket Correspondent:

TOTE JACKPOT MEETING GOING: GOOD draw: 5f, high numbers best

2.20 beverley lions claiming stakes

(3-T-U: £2,822: 71 100yd) (13 runners)
101 \$250 10 RRA BOY 50 (P Hasken \$-1 ...)
102 1200 GRESATRE 13 (6) C Duyer 8-11
103 00 AMSTERTON 17 J Storer 8-9
104 04 DCEAN BREEZE 25 J Washingthi 8-9
105 0464 BROADGATE R.YER 7 Ms. L Studius 8-7
107 00 HEVER SOLF AMSEL 17 P Hasken 8-7
108 -046 SMISS COAST 22 N Timbe 8-7
109 -046 SMISS COAST 22 N Timbe 8-7
10 00-656 APICULATE 40 S Bustone 9-8 112 00-0 STRAVANO 12 B Baugh 6-1 Darren Mottati (3) 4 113 - 300 SOMET LADY 10 (V.D.G) J Eyre 7-13 T Welliams 11

4-1 Lindrick Lady, 5-1 Little Boy. Gressine, 6-1 Broadgete Flyer, 7-1 Somet Lady. 8-1 Ocean Brosze, Hover Golf Angel, 10-1 other: 2.50 MR LAZENBY'S FILLIES HANDICAP

(£4,377: 1m 100yd) (13) 201 0000 THREE ARCH BRIDGE 7 (B,CD,F,G) M Johnston 5-9-10 201 0000 THREE ARCH BRIDGE 7 (B,CD,F,G) M Johnston 5-9-10

202 -620 DISPOL SEM 15 P Laiver 4-9-5

203 43-0 PARSA 13 (F) J Dunlop 4-9-3

204 9-05 SAMBBLASTER 19 J Eine 46-6

206 6-00 POLAR REFRAIN 12 J Notion 4-8-4

206 5-0-0 SKOWY MANTE 36 J Berkel 4-9-1

207 00-4 BEWITCHING LATY 22 D Arbulinot 3-9-0

208 9-0-0 SWPET SEVENTERS III HE Collinghodge 47-13

209 3424 PORTITE SOPHIE 12 (D,G) M Britan 5-7-13 D Mannagh (F) 3

210 4-64 MCSBLYCLIDDY REEKS 10 (F) E locas 6-7-10 Kim Tinder 13

211 69-0 PERSEPHONE 5 J L Haris 47-10

212 0-00 TOLEPA 9 J J O Neith 47-10

213 9-06 PRILEBN 15 P Entrary 47-10

3-10 F Bardwell 22

3-20 PRILEBN 15 P Entrary 47-10

3-10 Kim Tinder 13

217 69-0 PRILEBN 15 P Entrary 47-10

3-10 Kim Tinder 13

218 9-0 PRILEBN 15 P Entrary 47-10

3-10 Kim Tinder 13

219 3-0-0 PRILEBN 15 P Entrary 47-10

3-10 Kim Tinder 13

210 1-5 Bardwell 22

3-10 PRILEBN 15 P Entrary 47-10

3-10 Kim Tinder 13

211 69-0 PRILEBN 15 P Entrary 47-10

3-10 Kim Tinder 13

212 0-00 TOLEPA 9 J J O Neith 47-10

3-10 Kim Tinder 13

213 1-0-0 PRILEBN 10 (F) Entrary 47-10

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214 0-05 TOLEPA 9 J J O Neith 47-10

3-10 Kim Tinder 13

215 0-05 TOLEPA 9 J J O Neith 47-10

3-10 Kim Tinder 13

216 0-05 TOLEPA 9 J J O Neith 47-10

3-10 Kim Tinder 13

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3.20 MAGIC 1161 HANDICAP

(£7,035. 1m 1f 207yd) (10) 11-4 Gymerak Premiere, 7-2 Onetorthepileh; 4-1 Meis Baby. 5-1 Mr Teigh. 7-1 Premier Genesation, 8-1 Pension Fund, 10-1 Asiasin, 12-1 orbers

BLINKERED FIRST TIME TOMORROW: Beverley: 220 Soviet Lady Wolverhampton: 4 40 Slim Prior.

WOLVERHAMPTON

2.10 Pointe Fine, 2.40 Noufari. 3.10 Sublime Fellow. 3.40 Linton Rocks. 4.10 Ground Game. 4.40 Summerseat. 5.10 Alt On. Our Newmarket Correspondent: 2.10 Mythical. 4.10 GROUND GAME (nap).

GOING: NATIONAL HUNT COURSE: GOOD FLAT: STANDARD

9-4 Myencai, 9-2 Pointe Fine, 11-2 Myetic Strand, Absolute Liberty, 7-1 Gâding The Lily, 8-7 Mety Rum, 16-1 Mr Music Robbo, 20-1 Petunityc.

(All-weather: £3,220: 2m 46yd) (4)

1 2101 RANDOM KNOWESS 15 (CD.6) R logram 4-10-0 JF Egan I 2 1342 GREENSPAR 13 (D.E.6) W More 5-9-13 A Clark 4 3 2230 MONEPAR 6 (C.6) R Hebbechard 6-4-5 . . . F Lyon G 4 2-05 CASTLE SECRET 13 (D.F.S) D Burchell 11-8-1 . . . J Lone 3 11-10 Rendom Kadness, 5-2 Greenspan, 3-1 Houseri, 6-1 Castic Secret.

TRANSERS: D Loder, 8 winners from 20 transers, 40 0%, R Ingram, 8 from 25, 32 0%, M Prescott, 20 from 85, 23.5%; M Johnston, 48 from 210, 22.9%, S 49cots, 9 from 53, 17 0%. JOCKEYS: K Darley, 26 wteners from 104 mtcs, 25 0%; D Sweeney, 8 from 40, 20 9%, M Rimmer, 6 from 31, 19 4%, R Leppin, 9 front 57, 15 8%, P J Fessey, 6 from 53, 11 3%; A Clain, 20 from 182, 11,0%.

3.50 TRYTON FOODS HANDICAP

(£3,631. 1m 3i 216yd) (11) 401 45-0 CONTRAFFE 22 (D.F.G) Mrs A Servisori 5-10-0 J Supple 8 402 0-03 LOUKINGFORARANBOW 22 (D.BF.F.G) Bob Jones 9-9-8 404 0-55 FORGIE 12 (F) P Latvet 4-9-4 M Rich 6
405 316 CAMPASPE 206 (CD.F) J Fizzerald 5-8-10 K Fallon 5
405 3110 PENDOLINO 15 (D.BF.F.G.) M Brutan 6-9-5 G Bardwell 3
407 50-0 JAMOSE FREST 15 J Bernet 4-8-5 . 0 Utbma 2
408 3-01 COTTAGE PRENCE 10 (F) J J Gunn 4-8-4 J Gunn 4
409 0004 MONS 25 (F) Non Thompson 6-1-10 J Brankill (5) 1
410 400- NA 71ZZY 1863 A Multificial 47-10 . lona Wands (5) 11
411 0007 DRAMATIC PASS 884J M Chapman 8-7-10 Dames Mortad (3) 7

7-2 Collage Prince, 9-2 Lockingfocarambow, 5-1 Pendolino 6-1 Contrakra, 8-1 Mentalacarystau, Forgae, 10-1 Campaspe Mones, 14-1 others

4.20 SAVOURY KITCHEN MAIDEN STAKES (3-Y-0: £3,631: 5f) (20)

4.50~EBF william Jackson Bakery Median auction marden stakes (2-Y-0. £3,648 $^\circ$ 51) (14)

7-2 Rembore Rain. 9-2 Archerlo. 5-1 At Large. 7-1 Fine Times, Mystical, 10-1 Magic Fizz. Supercharmes. 12-1 others

6-4 Quiz Masies, C-1 Bigniston Berry, 5-1 Strandon, 8-1 Sweet Reward, 10-1 Strandon, I'm Tel. 12-1 Others

COURSE SPECIALISTS TRADERS: D Loder, 21 mones: nom 34 namers, 61.8%, 1 Curren. 7 hran 70, 35.0%, M Wane. 4 hran 14, 28.6%, T Donnelly, 3 from 15, 20.0%, J Dunlop, 9 hran 47, 19.1%; J Berry, 19 from 108, 17.6%, Mrs. J Ransden, 16 from 94, 17.0%. JOCAEYS: N Darley, 54 winners from 231 rides, 23 4%, M Fesion, 18 from \$2, 19 2%; D R McCabe, 6 from 38, 15 8%, F Norton, 4 from 26, 15 4%, G Bardwell, 5 from 33, 15,2%, J Wesver, 18 from 125, 14 4%

DRAW: NO ADVANTAGE

2.10 FAMILY DAY OUT MAIDEN STAKES Z., I U FAMILY MAY OUT MANUFER STARKES
(All-weather: \$2,596: 1m 100yd) (9 runners)

2 MYSTIC STRAND 20 W 6 M Turner 4-9-5. D Sweeney (5) 3
2 400- ARSOLUTE LIBERTY 274 S Woods 3-8-11. D Biggs 2
3 00- MR MASSO (83 W McKeinle 3-8-11. JF Epan
4 PETUMTSE 15 Stryth-Osbourne 3-8-11. D McKeinle
5 R0890 55 C Thomion 3-8-11. D McKeinle
6 230- GROWN THE LIAP 26 M Johnston 3-8-6. JF Amening 6
7 0-0 MISTY PAND 28 Hate 3-9-6. JD Smith (3) 9
8 04-1 MYTHEAL 9 (D,5) M Prescot 3-8-6. M Henry (3)
9 05-2 POINTE FINE 19 J Hits 3-8-6. M Henry (3)
9-4 Memoria 9-7 Pointe Fine 11-2 Mexic Strend Absolute Lanery 7-1 Gilding

2.40 DAY OF REST HANDICAP

3.10 WOLVERHAMPTON'S JUMPING AGAIN NOVICES CHASE (£4,026; 2m) (4) 1 1132 SUBLEME FELLOW 16 (D.BF.F.6) N Henderson 7-11-12

COURSE SPECIALISTS

3.40 NEW CHASE COURSE HANDICAP CHASE

7 1113 CARIBOO COLD 24 (8.F.G.S.) k Badey 8-10-3 J Osbono 8 2111 (COMMORE-SPEED 15 (D.F.G.S.) Mrs S Smith (0-10-1 R Guest 9 2451 HANNANAN YOUTH 15 (F.G.S.) G IdeCourt 9-10-0. D Gallapher 3-1 (union Rocks, 4-1 Stately Harac, 5-1 Kenmare-Speed, 7-1 Court Metody, Carthon Sold, 8-1 Cells; Abbey, 10-1 Bus De Lang, 12-1 others

4.10 SUNDAY MEETING HANDICAP (All-weather: £7,725: 1m 11 79yd) (10)

4.40 SUNDAY ROAST AT DUNSTALL PARK SELLING STAKES (All-weather: 2-Y-0: £1,993: 51) (8) 051 WILFRED SHERMAN 15 (CD,G) J Berry 9-3 P Fessey (5) 6

9-4 Withed Sherman, 5-2 Jack-N-July, 4-1 Germa Litzs, 6-1 Summerstel, 7-1 Impulse, 8-7 Stim Prior, 10-7 Rates, 20-1 Stump Per

5.10 STEWARDS AS JOCKEYS HANDICAP (Allweather: amaleurs: £1,998; 1m 4l) (8)

11-10 At On. 4-1 Presh Fruit Dudy. 6-1 Bartora s Jewel, 7-1 Sharet 8-1 Excluding 10-1 Facasa, 12-1 Mrs. Discriminal, 20-1 Mary Pags

Durham

on course

for rare

triumph

HARTLEPOOL (third day of

four): Nottinghamshire, with eight second-innings wickets

in hand, are 93 runs behind

TODAY, Durham might just

win a championship match. If they do, it will be the first time

since 1995 and will come about

HEADINGLEY (third day of four): Glamorgan, with all second-innings wickets in hand, are 163 runs ahead

CRICKET CORRESPONDENT

DARREN GOUGH and Robert Croft were inseparable on the England winter tour - kindred spirits. sharing a noisy exuberance that led the coach, David Lloyd, to label them affectionately "the children". They are central to England's Ashes strategy this summer, too, but yesterday they took lead roles as opponents on a day of rich entertainment at Headingley.

This match entered its third day with only one wicket down. Glamorgan's batsmen having dominated the 66 overs possible between the deluges on Wednesday before a blank Thursday had, by all logic, severely reduced the possible outcomes. But apparently not. By lunchtime, eight more wickets had fallen, five of them to Gough in one of those inspired spells he bowls with chest puffed out, cheeks reddening with effort and that irresistible look in his eyes. Only Croft defied him for long. Batting at No 6, as he must to be considered a Test-match all-rounder, he stayed two hours for 57 as Glamorgan were bowled out for 336.

Yorkshire responded positively, keen to establish their title credentials, but their batting was too frenetic, When Croft, settling in at the football stand end, took his second wicket, they were 130 for six, 57 short of avoiding the follow-on.

Gough, grumbling good-naturedly as bowlers like to do when the batsmen have let them down, all but banished that disagreeable prospect with a dashing 28. As is his wont, however, runs went to his head. Croft, whose cricket, unlike that of his friend, does not forever mirror the effervescence of his nature, lured him out and Yorkshire then had to weather an uncomfortable confrontation with Waqar Younis before Gough was indignantly swift to

مكذا من الاصل

CRICKET: ENGLAND COLLEAGUES DEMONSTRATE THEIR ALL-ROUND SKILLS ON DAY OF BRISK ACTIVITY

Gough's verve countered by Croft's craft

deny that there was any legacy of dampness in the pitch to help him and nor was there any extravagant swing. The ball turned slowly, enough for Croft to fancy his chances of winning the game today, but the clatter of wickets could almost entirely be credited to careless batting.

Adrian Dale, the first of the day's

17 casualties, can be excused. He received a beauty from Gough, leaving him sufficiently to induce a twitch of the bat and an edge to Blakey. This ended a second-wicket stand of 139 and Glamorgan were now to lose seven wickets for 27. Gough twice went past Matthew

Maynard's outside edge before the Glamorgan captain escaped to the other end and promptly edged Silverwood to the right of second slip, where Byas took a sharp catch. Steve James, flawless during his 109, was then thrown out by Vaughan, from backward point, as he called Cottey

when the total reached 250, Gough snatched it for himself.

Three wickets fell on that score. Cottey caught behind as he flapped at a short one and Butcher and Shaw, failing in their footwork, leg-before to successive balls. Thomas avoided the hat-trick but then sliced a drive to gully to complete Gough's wicket-towicket analysis of five for 11.

So one England player, at least, is on top of his game. No, make that two. Croft has been fêted as a celebrity since returning to Wales from his highly successful first senior tour but it has not altered him one bit. Nor, more importantly, has it deflected him from his cricket. He batted here with studied intent. occasionally in trouble as he planted his back foot prematurely but vividly determined not to get out to Gough. Croft and Steve Watkin generated

51 for the last wicket and Croft had just struck Stemp over the football stand when, in trying to repeat the

attaining a safer haven and declaring for a sharp single. Command was stroke, he was stumped. For many of before the delayed close.

for a sharp single Command was stroke, he was stumped. For many of ebbing away from Glamorgan and, those present, this ushered on the main event as Wagar marked out his run for his first championship spell for Glamorgan.

It was all something of a disap-pointment, though doubtless not for Yorkshire. Wagar's efforts to make the ball swing away were truitless and he bowled a sequence of innocuous balls down the leg side.

McGrath, having flicked two of

them tidily for four, was unlicky to make thin contact with a third and departed as Shaw brought off a tumbling catch. Despite a much improved second spell from the Kirkstall Lane End, this was to be Wagar's only success.

Darren Lehmann, the game's other overseas player, made a typically bristling 54, 48 of them in thumping fours, but Yorkshire were losing wickets too quickly. Croft had taken one with his first ball, took another with his first after tea and finished with four, a tally he will look at least to double today.

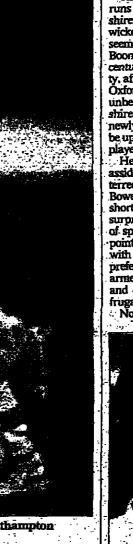
not through an ill-judged declaration or any kind of joke cricket, but on merit. Nick Speak and David Boon, neither of whom can be associated with the county's failings in past years, made sufficient runs to earn a first-innings lead of 161 and that, for Durham, is riches indeed. Now they must account for Notringhamshire's eight remaining wickets.

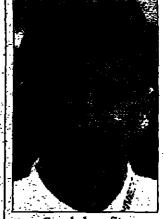
Having bowled out their opponents for 170 on the first day, they were held up when play was washed out on Thursday. Nottinghamshire's time will come again — or at least it will if they can persuade somebody like Clive Rice to return and energise them - but Durham, like Middlesbrough's footballers tomorrow, need plenty of luck.

They resumed yesterday 55 runs behind Nottinghamshire, with seven first-innings wickets in hand. Nothing seemed more likely than that 🤹 Boon would make his first century for his adopted county, after a half-century against Oxford University and an unbeaten 85 against Lancashire. His autobiography. newly published, will have to be updated if he can imbue his players with a sense of self.

He collected runs off his legs assiduously and was not deterred from driving when Bowen or Franks dropped short of a length. It was a surprise when, in the first over of spin, he was taken at silly point off bat and pad. Bates. with his off breaks, was preferred here to the two leftarmers, Afford and Hindson, and he bowled them most

frugally. Nobody is likely to benefit





Speak: benefits

more from batting with Boon this season than Speak, who left Lancashire because he was not given enough first-team opportunities. There have been any number of cricketers who have joined Durham too late in their careers to make a proper impression, but he should not be one of them. Now 30, he has a career

average of nearly 40. He should have made a century here. In all probability he would have done had he refused Brown's call for a risky run when on 93. Initially he had turned his back on his partner, which gave him insufficient time to beat Bowen's throw. His innings came off 254 balls and included 12

Other than that, there were contributions from Speight, who is keen to build a reputation as a more responsible batsman, and Brown himself. Tolley took two wickets in successive balls when he had Foster leg-before, not properly forward, and Boiling caught at the wicket flicking airily outside off stump. Durham merited their considerable

What they still have to resolve this season is how to find enough support for Brown if their opponents are to be bowled out twice. Walker might have been handed the new ball, given that he had taken seven Nottinghamshire first-innings wickers on Wednesday, but, instead, Killeen lost his rhythm spraying down the leg side too often. He did take the wicket of Pollard. but that owed everything to a brilliant left-handed catch by

Boiling in the gully.... Soon, Robinson was collecting runs as he has done unobtrusively and often unerringly for nearly 20 years. Last year, Durham made Notunghamshire follow on and he came up with an innings of 184 to save the match. He remains in the middle to attempt to do so again. One further wicket fell just before the close, Boil-

ing having Archer leg-before

pushing half-forward.

rescue in belligerent fashion By Simon WILDE

Johnson to

WORCESTER (third day of four): Leicestershire, with six second-innings wickets in hand, are 47 runs behind Worcestershire

Gough: inspired spell

NEIL JOHNSON, the fourth man Leicestershire, turned to in their search for an overseas player this season and whose name meant nothing to the average English cricket fol-lower when his signing was announced, provided further evidence yesterday that he may be capable of fulfilling more than a stand-in role.

He scored a belligerent unbeaten 87 - having come to in dire trouble at 14 for three, following on 188 behind - to add to the wicket he took with his first ball on Wednesday.

Without the Natal allrounder's efforts, Leicestershire might already be licking their wounds after a three-day thrashing. Such an outcome was on the cards after an awful morning session in which they lost eight wickets for 62 runs on a pitch that continued to provide extravagant movement off the seam.

Resuming on 42 for five, Leicestershire resistance was so minimal that within 50 minutes they had been dis-missed for 69 — easily the lowest total of the season and their second innings was not 12 overs old by the time Sutcliffe, Habib and Wells had each fallen for his second single-figure score of the game. Wells, indeed, collected his second duck of the game. avoiding the indignity of a "king pair" in his first championship match as captain by only one ball, undone again by

one of the many outswingers on display. The bowler on that occasion was Haynes, whose analysis then read 0.2-0-0-2, his first ball having dispatched Habib in similar fashion. Leicestershire's destrovers, though, were Newport and Sheriyar. who became the first Worcestershire pair to bowl unchanged through an innings for 20 years. They bowled outstandingly well, never giving the batsmen a moment's peace, and Newport thoroughfor nine years, seven for

His figures would have been better still had not Mac-Millan struck him for three successive boundaries in a typically brash attempt to take them past the follow-on target of 108 He was ninth out charging down the pitch to Sheriyar and looked round iust in time to see his leg stump flying through the air.

Newport had still not conceded a run in four overs in the second innings when he had Sutcliffe caught at second slip by Hick to put Leicestershire in further trouble. Understandably, he and Sheriyar were soon in need of rest but Haynes's double strike kept up the pressure and had Moody held a sharp chance from Johnson in his third over Leicestershire might have

been dead and buried. Johnson, 27, had then scored seven and not yet gauged the conditions but later showed a wonderful eve as he punished a tiring attack. He was given sound support by the imperturbable Maddy, whom he outscored three to one during a fourth-wicket partnership of 118 in 27 overs. A brilliant diving catch by Rhodes removed Maddy and gave Chapman his first championship wicket for his new county but Worcestershire were denied the chance to make further inroads when bad light brought a premature

close at four o'clock. Although it is tempting to focus on Leicestershire's shortcomings, Worcestershire deserve credit, too. Their attack will be stronger once Illingworth returns and, by sacrificing pace for accuracy. Sherivar has been a revelation. They are likelier to be a force in one-day cricket but David Houghton, their coach, is justifiably optimistic about their championship prospects.

it is because he believes their best years lie ahead that Houghton, whose contract ends in September, wants to commit his future to the county. At 39, he is no longer willing to divide his time between Worcestershire and Zimbabwe, where he is playercoach of the national team.



Mohammad Akram, who ended with five wickets, and the batsman, Rose, who scored a century, were key figures at Northampton

Rose and Burns lead Somerset recovery

By PAT GIBSON

NORTHAMPTON (third day of four): Northamptonshire, with seven second-innings wickets in hand, are one run behind Somerset

JOHN EMBUREY was not planning to shoot a horror movie when he took up his position behind the bowler's arm with one of those video cameras that have become such an essential tool of the cricket coach's trade. Yet that is what it will look like to his Northamptonshire players if they ever summon up the courage to analyse the events

He did manage a few happy snaps in the morning. when Mohammad Akram and Paul Taylor were reducing Somerset to 73 for seven. but there were some harrow-

ing scenes afterwards as Michael Burns and Graham Rose put on 170 for the eighth

Burns, an all-purpose cricketer who followed Dermot Reeve, the new Somerset coach, from Edgbaston to Taunton, made 82, one run more than his previous highest score, while Rose was still undefeated on 109, his seventh first-class century, when Somerset were finally out for 290. Their last three wickets had put on 217.

There was no obvious explanation for the remarkable turnaround, apart from the fact that the pitch may have lost some of its juice. It was just another example of what can happen in this extraordinary game when a couple of dropped catches here, a few bits of luck there, hand the initiative to the batsmen.

It had all looked so straightforward for Northamptonshire when Akram, who had taken three for 11 the night before, confirmed what a promising bowler he is. Whereas he had got his earlier wickets by bowling fast and straight, he was now moving the ball off the seam and in his second over he pitched one perfectly to have Bowler well caught by Bailey, diving low to his left at second slip. Taylor's swing was the perfect foil. Caddick, the

nightwatchman, was soon leg-before, Holloway went the same way and Turner was bowled, driving expansively down the wrong line.
Then it all began to go wrong. Boswell had Burns

dropped at second slip by Montgomerie and the returning Akram had Rose put down by Capel at first slip. After that, the edges did not even go to hand. In one over from Akram, Rose twice flashed attempted hooks over the wicketkeeper's head, the first one going for four, the second for six.

Thus encouraged, Burns and Rose prospered. Burns began to play the shots of a genuine batsman and Rose laid about him with some abandon, particularly against Boswell

They had been together for 41 overs and were within two runs of Somerset's eighthwicket record — established by the rather more formidable pairing of Richards and Botham in 1983 - when Burns top-edged a sweep against Snape.

Mushtag soon sliced a drive to cover to give Boswell was still time for more Northfound themselves going in again 105 runs behind and they were quickly in further trouble. Loye, who was forced to change his bat because the protective covering was roughing up the ball, found the replacement, borrowed from the opposing captain, not too much to his liking when he was beautifully caught at cover. Bailey was

had just completed his centu-

ry off 136 balls with 12 fours

and a six when Capel dropped

him again, off Boswell, and

Shine had helped him add a

further 37 for the last wicket

by the time Akram came back

So Northamptonshire

to claim his fifth wicket.

leg-before to Rose and Curran was yorked by Caddick, before Monigomerie and Penberthy got together in an unbroken stand at 39.

Peters gives repeat performance

By RICHARD HOBSON

FENNER'S (final day of three): Cambridge University drew with Essex

MEN against boys is an expression frequently used to describe contests between the Universities and first-class opposition. Yesterday, though. Cambridge suffered at the hands of a player whose boyish appearance suggested that he could have been one of their own.

Stephen Peters, at 18. is thought within certain Essex circles to be a better batsman than either Gooch or Hussain at a similar age. While it would be folly to read too much into a single innings against the Cambridge attack, he clearly possesses potential

in abundance. In this same fixture last season he became the youngest Englishman to score a century on debut. He completed another hundred yesterday

in 95 minutes, dragging the game out of the torpor into which it had sunk in the opening session.

Essex did not deserve victory. Indeed, as they ground out 34 runs in the first hour, it was apparent that success ranked below practice on their list of priorities. Peters began uncertainly.

but, unlike Hibbert, his predecessor, he declined to pred and poke about for long. He attacked the off spin of Freeth and Rob Jones and, by the time the new ball was taken, he was close to outright domination. His second fifty came from just 35 balls.

This vigorous allowed Prichard to declare with a first-innings lead of 118. Cambridge unwisely shuffled their batting order and eventually had to call upon Smith, their leading batsman, to appear at No 8 and steer them through the final minutes alongside Hughes, who had relished the opportunity of occupying Smith's regular wicket. At last, Napier could opening position. Essex took wickets regularly

and, for the second time in the day, youthful exuberance came to the fore. Having been tossed the new ball. Wilson bowled House in his first over. Rob Jones fell pushing nervously at Andrew and a complete surrender seemed possible when Singh drove Napier to Wilson at mid-



Peters: rapid century

feel he was in the Essex side for a reason. Like Wilson, he was making his debut but was mysteriously overlooked in the first innings.

A bowler of medium pace, Napier gave up a chance to join Ipswich Town as a goalkeeper to dedicate himself to cricket, a brave decision in an era in which football can lead on to fame and fortune and bowling leads invariably to back problems.

Napier soon claimed a second wicket as Steffan Jones swung at a leg-side delivery and was adjudged to have edged the ball to Hyam, the wicketkeeper, who had held a more difficult chance to account for Ratledge, one of two wickets for Such.

Dawson was bowled on the back foot and it said much for the ambition of the visitors that Essex agreed to finish at 5.30, with just four student wickets intact and a possible

Hick misses tour opener By SIMON WILDE

GRAEME HICK, who is attempting to regain his England place this summer, has been denied the opportunity to play against the Australians in the opening match of their tour next Thursday.

Worcestershire are one of two counties without championship fixtures that day but they are playing in the Parks and David Houghton, the club's coach and Hick's mentor, has argued that he would be better engaged against Oxford University.

John Barclay, who managed the last two England winter tours, is assembling the Duke of Norfolk's XI to play the touring side at Arundel and he approached Worcestershire and Northamptonshire. who have a game at Fenner's. about the availability of their players. Houghton ruled out both himself and Hick, while Tom Moody, the Worcestershire captain and a former

Australia Test player, declined to appear against his compatriots. However, the former Worcestershire captain, Tim Curtis, will be in the side. Reports yesterday suggested that Hick had turned down an

invitation to play for the scratch side on what is customarily an informal occasion, but this was not the case and he was upset at the

Having been overlooked for the England winter tour, Hick was expected to return from his enforced break in a blaze of runs. However, his first seven visits to the crease this season have produced just 94 runs.

The Northamptonshire player-coach, John Emburey, will captain the Duke's XI, which will also include David Capel, Tim Walton and Neil Faster, who is development officer at Northampton. The rest of the side is made up of overseas players on league

cricket contracts, including Zimbabwe's Grant and Andy Flower and Andy Whittall and the Australians, Shane Lee, who played for Somerset last season, and Brad McNa-

Malcolm Speed, a leading basketball official for the past decade, has been named as the chief executive officer of the Australian Cricket Board (ACB). Speed, 48, executive chairman of the Australian National Baskethall League, takes over from Graham Halbish — who was dismissed in January.

Speed, a lower grade club cricketer in his youth, will not be travelling to England with the party to defend the Ashes, which was due to leave Sydney today.

However, he will be heading for London later this year to attend the annual meeting of the international Cricket

Highlights provided by mash of the day

LORD'S (third day of four): Sussex, with all second-innings wickets in hand, need 297 runs to avoid an innings defeat by Middlesex

SPECTATORS have had their money's worth this week. The bangers and mash at Crocker's Folly have been grand. For a fiver you can have four sausages from a long list that features wild boar and apple, pork and leek and, of course, Cumberland. The onion gravy is excellent and the mustard will give your olfactory receptors a thorough work-out. It's a long way from the "InterCity

At Lord's, where Sussex have very kindly kept Middlesex company these past three days (there was some odd talk in the Long Room of a match taking place), the menu has been slightly different. Diners have savoured:

☐ Stuffed Martlet. ☐ Greenfield Salad. ☐ Terrine of Duck ☐ Grilled Trout Barclay. ☐ Rabbit Pie ("Hi. I'm Mark Robinson and I'm your wanter

Hard cheese. Not unnaturally it has left an unpleasant taste in the mouth_

If Sussex carry on playing cricket like this the England and Wales Cricket Board will feel obliged to diminish the points value of a win against them. To avoid defeat in this rain-affected game, which lost another 63 overs yesterday, they must but through the final day, after following on 303 runs behind. They do not. deserve a draw but, if they apply their minds, they can

Can they apply themselves? That was the task yesterday and they funked it so wretchedly they were bowled out for 187. Bill Athey, 39 years young, finished with 60 not out and there were runs down the order from Paul Jarvis, who was dropped before he had scored, and Amer Khan, to go with his five wickets. The others should hold their heads



Gatting clings on to a chance offered by Drakes to the obvious delight of his team-mates in the Middlesex slip cordon. Photograph: Graham Morris

Jamie Hewitt, who took four for 60, the best figures of his career, was the most successful of the Middlesex bowlers. He took the new ball ahead of Richard Johnson, who is still searching for full fitness, and who will be gratified by the three wickets that he took.

There were a couple for Jacques Kallis, the South Africa all-rounder, and, when he thought his day would go unrewarded, there was a late one for Angus Fraser. Kallis may be only 21 but he

is clearly going to be a key

man in the Middlesex team this season. Mike Gatting, his captain, rates him highly as a fast-medium bowler no less than a stroke-playing batsman, and talk of him bowling only on Sundays is just that:

Mention to Gatting the Sunday-only "verbal clause" that All Bather was supposed to have inserted in Kallis's contract and you will get a very funny look. He's going to surprise a few people this

Sussex lost their first three

wickets for 31 on Thursday. Within an hour yesterday morning they had slipped to 74 for six as Johnson flattened Rao's middle stump, Drakes offered a slip catch to Gatting and Newell, who scored a century against Northamptonshire at Hove last week. was leg-before. To make 187, therefore, was quite a

The sub-plot of the innings was whether Fraser could contain his frustration. He was not altogether in the groove, but he did bowl some

good balls and he deserved better than to see Hewitt. malingering at long leg, put down a straightforward chance when Jarvis accepted the bait of a short-pitched ball with a top-edged hook.

Fraser's day was made more or less complete when he was taken off, and, with the next ball from the Pavilion End. Johnson took the wicket of Jarvis, who checked a drive to cover.

Dear old Gussie lumbered up to join the celebratory pat but what he really wanted to say was: "Oi! Those are my wickets you're taking." People have been kind to Sussex of late, sympathetic to

thunder. He gave the bowler a

the bizarre proceedings that led to the takeover of the club committee. It was thought that they might actually prosper from the winter blood-letting that they might not be "all that bad". In this match they have played like hoobies and, if they carry on like this much longer, they will end up with no

YESTERDAY'S SCOREBOARDS

Britannic Assurance county championship

Derbyshire v Surrey DERBY (third day of lour). Derbyshire, with eight first-mings wickets in hand, are 154 ruhs behind Suney.

SURREY: First Innings D J Sichnell & Krikken b Malcolm M A Butcher Ibw b DeFreilas †A J Siewan Ibw b Malcolm

G P Thome low b Clarke N Shahid low b Harris A J Hollooke c Rollins b Dean C C Lewis c Harris b Malcolm I D K Salisbury low b Malcolm M P Biokrell c Adams b Dean

BOWLING: Malcolm 21-1-95-4, DeFrena

DERBYSHIRE: First Innings A S Rotins c Lewis b M P Bicknet G A Khan not out . . . C J Adams low b M P Bicknet . . . *D M Jones not out ... Extras (fb 10. nb 18) ... Total (2 wkts, 26 overs)

Malcolm to bet FALL OF WICKETS: 1-0, 2-24. BOWLING M.P. Bict-riell 8-1-38-2, Lewis 6-0-25-0; Tudor 2-0-20-0, Hollioake 3-0-12-0, Benjamin 5-3-6-0, Salisbury 2-1-

Nottinghamshire HARTLEPOOL tited day of fourt. Not-tinghamshire, with eight second-innumss wickets in hand, are 93 runs behind Durham.

Umpires A.A. Jones and B. Dudleston

NOTTINGHAMSHIRE: First Innings (C M Tolley 54, A Walker 7 for 56). Second lonnox P R Poliard c Boiling b Nilsen R T Robinson not out G F Archer low b Boiling

Extras (to 2, nto 2) Total (2 wkts) FALL OF WICKETS 1-11, 2-60 BOWLING Brown 6-2-27-0; Nilsen 7-0-15-1, Walker 5-2-22-0, Boding 5-3-2-1, Boon 1-1-0-0.

DURHAM: First Innings J J B Lews low b Bowen P D Collingwood b Franks J E Morris c Robinson b Tolley N J Speak run out "O C Boon c Robinson b Bates

Extras (b 1, lb 12. w 12, nb 10) Score at 120 overs: 330-9

FALL OF WICKETS 1-18, 2-66, 3-70, 4-305, 5-265, 6-281, 7-281, 8-314, 9-330, BOWLING: Evens 29-2-5-81-1 Franks 20-3-62-1, Bowen 29-9-62-2; Tolley 29-6-80-3; Bales 20-5-33-1.

Umpires R Julian and J F Steels

Gloucestershire v Hampshire

BRISTOL (third day of four): Hamoshire with seven second-innings wickets in head, are 41 runs behind Gloucestershire

Second Innings Extres (b 1) Total (3 wkts) ..

FALL OF WICKETS 1-5, 2-12, 3-21, BOWLING. Smith 6-1-9-2; Lawrence 5-2 12-0; Young 6-3-11-0; Ball 6-2-13-1 GLOUCESTERSHIRE: First inrings

M A Lynch c xeech b Connor S Young Bw b Stephenson "M W Alleyne Ibw b Connor JR C Russell b Stephenson T H C Hancock c sub b Connor M C J Ball Ibw b Stephenson A M Swell por cell

Extras (02, 102, w 6, nb2) . Score at 120 overs 394-6 FALL OF WICKETS, 1-28, 2-72, 3-151 4-175, 5-273, 6-331, 7-341, 8-386, 9-401 BOWLING Connor 28-4-93-3, Renshaw 25-2-73-2, Mascarenhas 20-2-65-1, Uda 19-2-58-0 Stephenson 23 1-3-81-4, Hay-

Bonus points, Gloucestershire B Impires G | Burgess and R A White

Middlesex v Sussex LORD'S (that day of four) Sussex, with all second-mangs wickets in hand, need 297 runs to avoid an innings defeat by Modifiesex

MIDDLESEX: First Immings 490 for 9 dec (M R Ramprakash 145, K R Brown 144 not out, A A Khan 5 for 137)

SUSSEX: First Imnings M T E Peirce o Tulnell b Hewitt W Jarvis c Kallis b Johnson A A Khan c Johnson b Fraser Extras (b 1, lb 1, w 2, nb 12) ... Total (60.3 overs)

FALL OF WICKETS, 1-16, 2-26, 3-31, 4-54, 5-55, 6-74, 7-105, 8-140, 9-187 Second Innines M T E Pairce not out k Greenfield not out . . .

Total (no wkt) . BOWLING Kallis 1-0-3-0, Hewitt 0.2-0-Bonus points: Middlesex & Sussex 2. Umpres V A Holder and J H Hampshire

v Somerset NORTHAMPTON (third day of lour): Northamptonshire, with seven second-raings wokets in hand, are one run behand Somerser

NORTHAMPTONSHIRE: First Innings 185 (K M Curran 73, A P Caddick 6 for

Extras (b 4, b 4, nb 2) Total (3 wkts) FALL OF WICKETS 1-18, 2-38, 3-65 BOWLING Capdick 13-1-61-1, Shine 6-2-8-1, Rose 6-3-8-1; Ahmed 4-2-9-0, Kerr 4-1-10-0 SOMERSET: First Innings

Caddick bw b Taylor C L Holloway low b Taylor Burns c Loye b Snape G D Flosse not out Austriaq Ahmed c Snape b Boswell K J Shine b Moha

FALL OF WICKETS 1-8, 2-13, 3-19, 4-42, 5-42, 6-55, 7-73, 8-243, 9-253. 5-22 6-35, 7-13, 6-23-3 BOWLING Mohemmad Altram 20 4-3-72-5, Taylor 22-3-71-3; Boswell 14-1-83-1; Penberthy 4-1-13-0; Capel 7-2-23-0; Snape 9-1-21-1. Bonus points. Northamptonshire

Umpries: T.E. Jesty and B.J. Meyer Worcestershire v

Leicestershire WORCESTER (Introl day of lour): Lencestershire, with sex second-innings wickets in hand, need 47 runs to avoid an innings deteal by Worcestershire WORCESTERSHIRE: First Innings 257 (K R Spring 56, A D Multally 4 for 86) LEICESTERSHIRE: First knowings

D L Maddy c Hick b Sheriyar I J Suicette Ibw b Newport A Habib c Hick b Newport J Wells o Rhodes b Newp Johnson Ibw b Newpon Macmillan b Sherivar

Total (34.2 overs) FALL OF WICKETS 1-13, 2-21, 3-21. 4-27, 5-33, 6-44, 7-45, 9-46, 9-69 BOWLING Newport 17.2-5-37-7: Sheriyar 17-5-26-3

Second innings D.L. Maddy c Rhodes b Chapman I J Sutchile c Hick b Newport A Habib c Rhodes b Haynes V J Wells a Rhodes b Haynes C Johnson not out Eatres (6.2 /6.4 /4.2 /6.2) Total (4 wkts) ...

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-3, 2-14, 3-14, BCWLING, Newport 11-6-20-1, Sheriyar 9-1-30-0, Chapman 9-4-2-42-1, Haynes

Umpres J.W. Holder and N.E. Palmer Yorkshire v Glamorgan

Extres (b 4, lb 12, w 2, nb 14) Total (102.4 overs)

McGnath c Shaw b Wagar I P Vaughan c Shaw b Croft D Byas Ibw b Watkin I S Lehmann b Buicher 3 Parker c James b Butcher C White low b Thomas 'R J Blakey c Maynard b Croft) Gough c Waqar b Croft

Bonus points. Yorkshire 5 Glamorgan 7 Umpres B Leadbeater and D R Shepherd

FENNER'S (final day of threel: Cam-bridge University drew with Essex CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY: First Innings 285 for 9 dec (A Singh 124, ET Smith 72, DR Law 5 for 93)

Second Immings ⊈ Hughes not out ... W J House b Wilson W 3 House b Wishin P C Jones c Hyam b Andrew "A Singh c Wilson b Napier J Railedge c Hyam b Such P S Jones c Hyam b Napier M W Dawson b Such

FALL OF WICKETS 1-12, 2-21, 3-55, 4-60, 5-65, 6-70

D.G. Wilson, G. R. Napier, S. J.W. Andrew and P.M. Such did not bet FALL OF WICKETS 1-136, 2-145, 3-185, 4-253, 5-322

BOWLING: P S Jones 16-3-49-1 How 13-5-25-0, Dawson 11-2-56-0, House 4-0-21-0, R O Jones 17-1-56-0 Freeth 27-3-101-2, Hughes 16-2-3-73-2 Snigh

THE PARKS (final day of three). Warwick shire beat Oxford University by an immige OXFORD UNIVERSITY: First Immings 129 (G Welch 4 for 39)

Second Innings Second Innings

R D Hudson ibw b Brown

M A Wagh b Welch

C G R Lightlooi c Yinghi b Brown

B W Byme c Ostler b Welch

1A P Scrittlow b Welch

J A G Futton c Homp b Gites

P G Morgan c Powell b Gites

C Patel c Whan b Brown

L G Buchanen c Powell b Gites

J M M Avent c Powell b Gites M M Averis not out M Banarbee c Frost b Brown Extras (b 2, lb 10, w 2 nb 10)

Total

WARWICKSHIPE: First Innings 297 for 7 dec (A F Gries 69 not out, N M is Smith 55 not out, D P Ostler 51). Umpires A.G.T.Whitehead and P.Willer

Knon 99. B. C. Hollicalice 88. R. W. Nowell, 55. J. D. Raichille 551 and 205-8 (Raichille 551 and 205-8 (Raichille 116 not out in Darbyshire 349. R. D. Blachwell 99. M.R. May 54. J. G. Ward 5-87). Match observationed as a draw Taumton: Gloucesterchie 407-9 doc M.G. W. Windows 92. R. Dawson 76. M. Coombes 751. Someract 203 and 189. K. Parsons 70. K. P. Sheriaz 4-61). Gloucestershire with by an innings and 15 nuns. Southampton: Wordestershire 305 and 124. (S. M. Millburn 6-56, J. M. B. South 4-64). Hand 175-1. Match drawn Chelmistond. Essev. 111. and 201. (M. Sagges 4-65). Dunham 385-2 dec. (S. Hurton 159. J. Daico, 144). Durham win by an innings and 73 runs.

Thorpe and Bicknell revive Surrey's spirits



Martin Bicknell: defiant

74 and two quick wickets

BRISTOL (third day of four):

Hampshire, with seven sec-

ond-innings wickets in hand,

are 41 runs behind

REPLACING a cricketer of

Courtney Walsh's stature is a

difficult task, but Gloucester-

shire usually manage it. Alderman, Srinath and Gil-

bert have been able locums

when Walsh has been with

West Indies and another app-

ears to have arrived in Bristol.

Unlike the others, Shaun Young has not played Test

cricket, which is yet another

indication of the depth of

talent in the Australian game.

Yet everything he has done in this match suggests he is an accomplished all-rounder. In

making 73 as Gloucestershire

took control yesterday, he

Gloucestershire

DERBY (third day of four): Derbyshire, with eight first-innings wickets in hand, are 154 runs behind Surrey

WHAT with two days' play having been scuppered by rain, these two strong contenders for the championship will need to display either uncommon ingenuity or ineptitude for a result to be achieved. As it is, the matter rests - initially, at least - with some fine judgment by the captains and the odd innings forfeiture. But whatever the state of the match,

yesterday was not wasted. It produced a full day's competitive cricket and a welcome return to form by Graham Thorpe, whose 83 followed a dismal start to the season, with 102 runs from six innings and a best score

Apart from Thorpe's stay of nearly four hours, which became reassuringly

better as time went by, there was on display the usual mixture of humdingers and wayward misfires from Devon Malcolm, which brought four for 93 from 21 overs and cries of both joy and exasperation from Derbyshire's well-

It is no secret that Malcolm does not consider his England career to be over. Whether or not the same applies to the thoughts of Martin Bicknell, he it was who stole the day. After a masterly innings of 74 after coming in at the fall of Surrey's seventh wicket, he bowled with both pace and movement. He removed Rollins and Adams in doublequick time and found the edge on any number of occasions. If only he could stav fit for a whole season. . .

The comparative newcomer. Alex Tudor, also in the England selector's sights, hustled the ball through at an impressive pace during a brief spell. He had Derbyshire's Gul Khan and

accuracy and movement off the pitch. Until Bicknell joined Thorpe in a stand of 74 for the eight wicket. Surrey's laudable attempt to seize the initiative by batting first had looked

time to time, but he lacked Bicknell's

doomed to failure. There was just enough moisture under the surface to make Malcolm and DeFreitas, and then Harris and Dean, daunting propositions. Of the early batsmen only Thorpe mustered a convincing innings and even he made a sketchy start, a beauty from DeFreitas leaving him off the seam and seering straight through him. Yet this was small beer by compari-

son with what went on as Surrey stumbled to 16 for three. Darren Bicknell sparred at a lifter and was caught behind; Stewart looked unhappy about a ball from Malcolm that

Thorpe gradually found his feet. The old familiar nudges square of the wicket, the delayed forces off his legs gradually blossomed. He and Shahid restored semi-respectability by putting on 64 for the fourth wicket. When Harris and Dean entered the fray they accounted for Shahid and then Hollioake. The Surrey captain was out to the last ball before lunch, taken with Surrey on 117 for five. When Malcolm returned from his fish and chips like a giant refreshed, he quickly disposed of

was of too full a length for the stroke

and, like Stewart, was plum in front.

score stood at 134 for seven. Having edged his first ball, bowled by Malcolm, just wide of Smith, Bicknell settled in uncommonly well. His square cover-driving was worthy of a higher place in the order, his defence uncompromising. Like Thorpe he played a large part in digging Surrey out of a big hole.

Lewis and Salisbury and the Surrey

TEST cricket's most successful bowler, Kapil Dev, is to dsman. The Indian Cricket Board, having taken note of

prepare sporting wickets."

Dalmiya added that
Kapil, who has become a successful businessman since retiring three years ago, refused to accept any salary for his services, but the board had decided to pay him an honorarium.

Kapil, who toiled on the slow Indian pitches for 16 years before retiring with 434 Test wickets, said that he was delighted to accept the challenge. "This is a good way to give something back to Indian cricket," he said. "Being a seamer, I know how hard it is for bowlers of

how to cope.

THE PARKS [final day of at one stage, they should have three]: Warwickshire beat no qualms about their seam Oxford University by an

innings and 53 runs OXFORD needed sizeable

contributions from Byron Byrne and their other remaining specialist batsmen to set Warwickshire problems on the last day yesterday. In the event, the university lost three critical wickets in the first 65 minutes and only a stubborn seventh-wicket stand between Peter Morgan and Chetan Patel kept the game going until the middle of a breezy

Morgan, a South African, and Patel, born in Islington. London, resisted the Warwickshire spinners for 21 overs and, on a slow pitch offering grudging turn, showed what might have been achieved with greater experience higher in the order. Probably the greatest blow to Oxford was that Mack Wagh, their captain and sole surviving Blue, was out in the first over in each innings. Though Allan Donald was absent, Warwickshire had, in Welch and Brown, two sharp, aggressive seam bowlers and the university batsmen needed Wagh. who as a Warwickshire sec-

From the Oxford performance in the field on Thursday, when Patel took his hattrick and they reduced Warwickshire to 174 for seven

tains "plenty of potential".

batting averages.

bowling. For the moment, however, the batting is a

different matter. In conditions in which Durham, Hampshire and Yorkshire, their three previous opponents, averaged 108 runs a wicket, with eight men scoring hundreds. Oxford managed only four fifties. Wagh, not helped by making only 54 runs in five innings himself, is adamant that the top-order batting con-To translate it into runs and

with an impatient smear at Giles, the slow left-hander. In following his unbeaten 36 on Wednesday by making 11 not out, Averis. the No 10, made himself leader of the Oxford

Neale, their director of cricket, faces a fitness test on the morning of the match.

bounced less than expected; and he was soon followed to the pavilion by even Dean Jones hopping about from Butcher, who tried to pull a ball which Young looks worthy heir Kapil Dev named turf to Gloucestershire throne

es and outfields across the "India has often been criticised for producing under-prepared wickets to suit its spinners," the board secretary, Jagmohan Dal-miya, said. "Kapil's brief is to examine how we can

that type in India. "The ideal pitch is one which favours the new ball bowlers at the start and evens out for batting before taking turn in the later stages." India have not lost a series at home since 1987, even though they have won only one Test abroad in the

same period.

Oxford let down by poor show at crease

By JOHN THICKNESSE

ond XI player knows their bowling well, to show them

bolster confidence, Byrne, the No 4, and the two lefthanders, Charlie Lightfoot and James Fulton, who all have obvious promise, have to learn to occupy the crease. Byrne, first out yesterday, fell to a fine catch by Ostler low at second slip off a ball he had to play, but Fulton wasted 40 minutes of reconnaissance

For Warwickshire, Phil

has enough confidence in Nick Knight's recently broken left forefinger to pencil him in to open in the Benson and Hedges Cup tie against Derbyshire on Monday. Piper, the wicketkeeper, who missed the Oxford game through injury.

played with a fluency that only Lynch, who could not sustain his dashing progress beyond the first over, has equalled.

> later, he was comfortably snaffled by Keech in the slips. The entertainment did not

end there, though it was now of a more orthodox nature, as the left-handed Young soon found his touch. In a stay of a

Lynch, who had illuminated the gloom of Thursday evening, wasted no time in relocating the boundary, thrashing the second ball he faced past point, and turning the next to the mid-wicket fence. It could not last; attempting something in the same exotic vein two balls

Russell: key mnings

particularly on the leg stump, but played each ball on its merits. He did not have to wait long for the bad ones. Young is sure to face stiffer examinations than the one that Hampshire have presented. Nobody but Trainor among the front-line Glouces-

By JAMES ALLEN

little over two hours, he pun-ished anything overpitched,

tershire batsmen failed. Late in the day, Russell was able to collect runs at will and even Ball, who has no great reputation as a strokemaker, made a jaunty contribution. After the downfall first of

Young and then Alleyne, both leg-before when playing for-ward. Russell accepted the responsibility of ensuring that their efforts were not wasted and that Gloucestershire emerged with a decent lead. Until he was bowled, swing-



ing at Stephenson, there had scarely been a false shot. Only Udal, who found little encouragement in the pitch. offered some variety in the

man. He made a brief appearance in which he caught Hancock at second slip. Maru was on the field in place of Keech, who hurried off after disclocating his thumb as he tried to scoop up an edge at slip. He is hopeful that he will be able to bat

bowling. Maru, who would

have provided a different an-

gle of attack, is the twelfth

He was not the only casualty. Kendall, who had earlier reprieved Alleyne when failing to hold a stinging chance at mid-wicket, was struck on the forehead when he lost sight of Ball's firm clip. So depleted were Hampshire's resources that Shaun Graf, who is standing in as coach for Malcolm Marshall, had to take the field.

Such mishaps were in keeping with Hampshire's forlorn attempts to stay in contention. Confronted with a deficit of 87. their troubles grew when they went in again. Lawrence ran in with gusto for five overs, but it was Smith who accounted for both openers. Hayden, brilliantly taken at slip by Rail did not score. Here is one Australian who is struggling.

When Stephenson perished

off bat and pad, the prospect of

Gloucestershire securing vic-

tory today became real.

consultant

become India's head grouncriticism from visiting teams, has asked him to improve the quality of pitch-

country.

Extras (fb 7, nb 14) . Total (76.4 overs)

to be let's-go-to ger-or-swoon. may be due to lays the latest out needlessly with either his my corners".

ront (BBC2)

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HEADINGLE) (third day of four). Glamogan, with all second-innings wickets in hand, are 163 runs ahead of Yorkshire GLAMORGAN: First Innings S P James run out
H Moms c Blakey b Silverwood
A Dale c Blakey b Gough
MP Maynard c Byas b Silverwood
P A Cottey c Blakey b Gough
D B Cott s Blakey b Silverwood
G P Buicher Ibw b Gough
A D Shaw Ibw b Gough
A D Shaw Ibw b Gough
S D Thomas c Lehmann b Gough
Wagar Youns Ibw b Silverwood

FALL OF WICKETS 1-86 2-225, 3-230, 4-237, 5-250, 6-250, 7-250, 8-252, 9-285 BCWLING Gough 23-9-56-5; Silvenwood 23-3-80-3, Hamilton 21-6-63-0, White 13-0-62-0, Stemp 16-4-2-44-1, Vaughan 4-2-6-0, McGrath 2-0-9-0

Extras (nb 2) Total (no wkt) .. BOWLING, Gough 2-0-9-0; Stemp 7-0, Vaughan 2-0-11-0 YORKSHIRE: First Innings

Total (9 wkts dec. 54.2 overs) FALL OF WICKETS 1-14, 2-33, 3-93 4-112, 5-113, 6-130, 7-172, 8-184, 9-192 BOWLING Wagar Yourus 12-1-42-1 Walton 12-4-34-1, Thomas 5-0-32-1, Date 4-0-21-0, Croft 16-2-3-58-4, Butcher 5-1-

University matches Cambridge University v Essex

Extres (b 1. lb 5, w 4) Total (6 wkts)

BOWLING Andrew 5-1-16-1, Wilson 11-2-31-1 Napier 9-3-25-2 Such 8-5-8-2; Grayson 5-3-4-0, Hibbert 1-0-1-0 ESSEX: First Innenes *P J Prichard c House b Hughes D D J Robinson c and b Hughes A P Grayson c House b Freeth D R Law C Singh b Freeth A J E Hibbert low b P S Jones S D Pelers not out tB J Hyam not out dras (b 3, lb 4, w 4, nb 4) Total (5 wkts dec)

Umpres B Dudleston and M N Reed

BOWLING: Welch 14-7-15-3, Brown 14-3-4-24-4, Gales 21-11-27-3, Smith 11-3-23-0, Edmond 6-3-14-0.

SECOND XI CHAMPIONSHIP (Ima) day of three). The Ovat Surrey 406-9 dec (J.A. knott 99, B.C. Hollicake 88, R.W. Nowell

Impressive Herbert increases pressure on illustrious rivals in practice for Monaco Grand Prix

Ferrari may risk future on high-stakes gamble

IN MONTE CARLO

THE Monaco Grand Prix. always the maverick of the Formula One season, a throwback to racing round the houses, has raised the stakes this weekend.

By coincidence, it is the fiftieth anniversary of the birth of Ferrari and the fiftieth Cannes Film Festival, so, by day, the glitterati dress down in jeans and T-shirts and peer into the Ferrari pits, wondering if tomorrow could revive the legend, and by night, in black bow ties and tuxedos. the wealthy slip away to

Maybe they do not hear the whisper of the paddocks that Ferrari, not pleased by being upstaged by Johnny Herbert in his Sauber in unofficial practice, intend this morning to surprise everyone and bring out, ahead of schedule, the new engine from their Maranello factory. The heat is on and Michael Schumacher and Eddie Irvine may be propelled into the make-orbreak session of their season. It is heady stuff, on top of the

fusion of wealth and power and the great lottery that, a year ago, reduced this race, rain-affected, to just three finishers out of 21 starters. Thus does official practice, the rush for pole position and the front of the grid, mean more on this tight and narrow

circuit than anywhere else. It is said that, if Ferrari finish high among the qualifiqueue of cars coming up from Italy - 30,000 of them, equal to the total number of residents of Prince Rainier's principality.
Viewing is "free", if you can

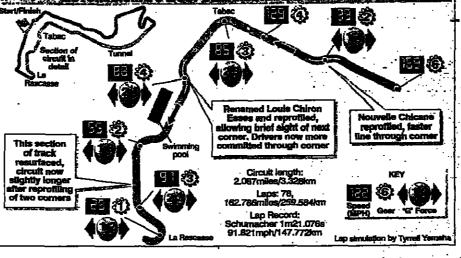
find a perch, security extremedifficult and sometimes keeping the car on the track. where drivers boast of "kissing" the steel barriers wrapped around the streets, is itself an examination of nerve, experience and concentration.

Aficionados claim that this is a slow and safe track and the fact that Lorenzo Bandini, exactly 30 years ago, was the last driver to pay the ultimate price of his life appears to verify that. However, the game of kissing the barriers, literally smudging them with



black tyremarks like lipstick, is more dangerous than the macho followers make it

This is serious racing, an examination of the drivers on a track that never relents from imposing switchback speeds and gears and G-forces. There are 20 gear-changes in all, allegedly just three areas in which cars can safely overtake one another and, coming out



of the tunnel, arguably the most concentrated half-mile of road racing in the business. Under the guidance of the

FIA. the sport's governing body, that stretch of road has been resurfaced to try to level out some of the bumps. It begins with a 169mph short straight into the Nouvelle Chicane new because it has been slightly smoothed out this season, ensuring that, once they drop down to second gear, to 39mph, the drivers may, for once, be able to see what is in front of them rather than merely to guess.

piled by Tyrrell-Ford, one can then simulate the next seconds of a driver's priorities. Out of the chicane, accelerating to fourth gear and 129mph, the drivers head for Tabac CorManuel Fangio, the greatest of them all, won his first grand prix, where, by noticing that the spectators had suddenly turned their heads towards the next corner, he intuitively slackened off and was able to steer a line through a multiple

After Tabac, the second place on the track that has been altered is the first S-bend, approaching the swimming-

who approached it at right angles and could not see a stalled car, oil on the track or some other deadly hazard. The new, slightly more driver-friendly curve, has been renamed Louis Chiron. Through that, down to second gear for the next bend, accelerating again to 91 mph, the cars sweep towards La Rascasse, a corner that reduces the driver's speed in a touch more than 29mph, reduces the gear shift to first gear and lowers the Gforce to a momentarily tolera-

In a year in which new tyre treads have increased downforce and when the drivers themselves predict the lan record could come down by as much as three seconds, the race is on to get a grip on the Formula One season before the Williams team of Jacques Villeneuve and Heinz-Harald Frentzen pull away to dominate this season as

Yet it is the year of hope, one of almost alarming fresh-faced optimism. Raif Schumacher, just 20, is on a learning curve.

Michael, the best driver on the grid. "If you are in the same job as your brother," Ralf Schumacher said, "then you seek every opportunity to meet him, it's normal." He thinks that family ties would not be affected should he actually get ahead of his brother when Michael most needs to

put Ferrari back on the map. The thoughts of inexperience. It is all around: Ralf Schumacher's Italian parmer in the Jordan, Giancarlo Fisichella, has only a couple of years' more experience. The Stewart-Ford partnership, Rubens Barrichello and Jan Magnussen, are also riding on rings of youth.

This being a track dominatby know-how, Herbert, fourth and third in his past two attempts here, intends to use his knowledge, as do the Benetton duo of Jean Alesi and Gerhard Berger. There is the precious knowledge of veterans who have been around Monaco, the place where II of the racers actually live, more than most. Therefore, they know the royal motto "Deo Juvante" — with God's health.

EQUESTRIANISM

Stark ghosts into lead after new test for dressage

By JENNY MACARTHUR

IAN STARK, riding Lady Hartington's Stanwick Ghost, has a slender 1.4pts lead over Robert Lemieux, of Canada, on Just An Ace at the end of the dressage phase of the Mitsubishi Motors Badminton Horse Trials. Stark. 43, who won in 1986

and 1988 on Sir Wattie, produced an attractive, flowing test on the 11-year-old gelding. one of the few horses to cope new test, which was rewarded with high marks from each of the three judges.
Other good tests on a mostly

dispiriting day of dressage came from Mary King, on Star Appeal, who are lying in seventh place and Chris Bartle, the British team trainer, who is in ninth place on Word Perfect. The joint overnight leaders on Thursday, David O'Connor, of the United States, on Custom Made. and Linda Algotsson, of Sweden, on Lafayett, have dropped to third.

Despite his lead, Stark has little room for complacency as the competition moves on to the influential speed and endurance phase today. Last year. Stark led after the cross country on the same horse but dropped to sixth place after the showjumping. In Atlanta, Stanwick Ghost fell coming out of the water. Stark, who describes the course as "one of the biggest and most impressive" he has seen, has the advantage of an early round on his first horse, Arakai, before tackling it with Stanwick Ghost.

Lemieux, a former British rider who took dual nationality in 1992, is pleased merely to be competing with Just An Ace. In 1991 he broke his collar-bone and Mark Todd was asked to ride the horse at Badminton. Todd finished fifth and the horse's owner, the late Mary Patrick, gave the horse to the New Zealander. Todd was fifth again in 1994 and fourth in 1995, after which Just An Ace returned to charge out of the arena. Lemieux. Injury prevented

him from competing last year. RESULTS MITSUBISHI MOTORS TROPHY MITSUBISHI MOTORS TROPHY
(after the dressage)

1. "Starnwick Ghost [I Stark, GB)
46 2pts; 2, Just An Aos (R Lemieux,
Canj 47 6; 3 equal, Lalayett (L
Algotson, Swe) and Custom Made (D
O'Connor, USI 48.6; 5, Archie Brown (P
Muir, GB) 49.4; 6, Headley Bravo (D
Dick, GB) 49.6; 7, Star Appeal (M King,
GB) 50 0; 8, Darien Powers (A Hoy,
Aus) 52.0; 9, Word Perfect (C Bartle,
GB); 10, Carneron (X Labaisse, Fr)
52.4.

For most of the first half of the dressage yesterday it was difficult to believe that this was eventing at its highest level. Many horses appeared unable to cope with the greater degree of collection required by the new test. Several horses. most notably Gary Parsonage's Magic Rogue and Karen Dixon's Too Smart, who both

the movements of the test. Too Smart, in joint-73rd place, gave notice of his inten-

represented Britain in Atlanta,

were so lit up they were virtually unable to perform

tions from the moment he entered the arena. The 11-yearold gelding chucked his head up in the air and proceeded to ignore all instructions from his rider. In an embarrassing afternoon for the Great Britain selectors, Chris Hunnable and Mr Bootsie, another Olympic partnership, were also victims of Badminton's tense atmosphere, ending their unsettled test with a Lemieux's arrival in the

arena on Just an Ace at the beginning of the afternoon session came as something of a relief. The 15-year-old gelding, by Just A Monarch, produced a relaxed, obedient test which earned him a mark of 47.6. King then boosted British hopes with a good workmanlike performance on her Burghley winner, Star Appeal. The 12-year-old gelding is not an extravagant mover but what he lacks in flair he makes up for in accuracy. King is hoping that accuracy will extend to the cross country today.

Algotsson, having her first attempt around the course, has decided on unusual tactics for the formidable lake complex. "I'll just kick on and scream," she said.

Several top riders are hoping to disprove Hugh Thomas's forecast that only a rider in the top three after the dressage will win. William Fox-Pitt is in fourteenth place on his Olympic horse, Cosmopolitan, and Blyth Tait, the Olympic champion, is joint-



Parsonage had an unhappy test on Magic Rogue, who could not settle to the task

SAILING

Owen takes second world title

BY EDWARD GORMAN SAILING CORRESPONDENT

BRUCE OWEN and his British crew on board the lan Howlett-designed Scoundrel were yesterday celebrating a convincing win in the shimetre world championship, jointly hosted by the Yacht Club de Cannes and the Yacht Club de France.

Owen, who sails out of Cowes, won the series with a race to spare. His finishing sitions were fifth, third first, seventh and first, plus a twelfth in the last race, which was sailed in winds of more than 35 knots and saw many

It was Owen's second world title in the class, one of the oldest still racing, with his previous success having come in New York in 1987.

For Owen, whose crew on Scoundrel was Jonathan Howe, Rob Lipsett, Guy Baron and Jonny Smallridge, this was a particularly satisfying victory after his recovery from a motorcyle accident last year that had threatened to end the 50-year-old's competitive sail-

After six days of the fifth leg of the BT Global Challenge, the fleet remains relatively bunched with 78 miles separating the leading yacht. Commercial Union, from the back-marker, 3Com, as they head slowly north from Cape Town towards Boston.

So far what Chay Blyth, the race director, called the "dolphin, sunshine and gin and tonic leg" has produced some unspectacular downwind

Yesterday the overall leader, Mike Golding, on Group 4, was in second place with his nearest rival for overall honours, Simon Walker, on Toshiba Wave Warrior, just a few miles back in third.

Kettle too hot for Haining

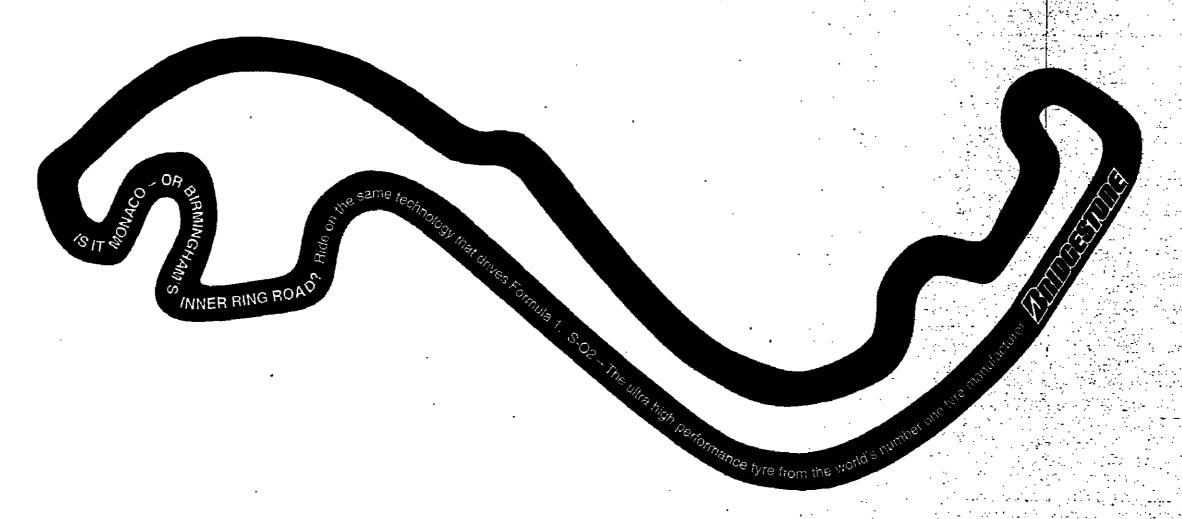
A CHAMPION gave way to youth yesterday when Martin Kettle, 25. added the Wingfield Sculls title to his Scullers Head title at his first attempt when Peter Haining, defending his title for the fourth time. dropped out after suffering a coughing fit (Mike Rosewell

Kettle, who had moved level with Haining before his rival's misiorame, resisted a strong attack by David Pattulio, the Scottish champion, and eventually won by a margin of 22 lengths. "It is the hardest race I've ever done," he said. When Pattulio pushed me after Barnes, I was counting every stroke."

o: A frustrating defeat for Nicola Fairbrother, the 1992 Olympic silver medal-winner. in the lightweight section was a rare blemish on another successful day for Britons at the European championships in Ostend, Belgium, yesterday. Fairbrother still has the chance of securing third place when the repechage is completed tomorrow.

Bowls: Norma Shaw, the world indoor singles champion, from Thornaby, who was left out of the England team to compete in the Atlantic Rim outdoor championships in Liandrindod Wells in August. was vesterday named as England's singles representative at the European indoor championships in Jersey in

Tennis: Great Britain's women players earned promotion to Europe-Africa group one of the Fed Cup in Antalya, Turkey, yesterday. Having won their first four group matches this week, a 2-1 victory over Denmark in their final game took them out of the bottom division.



THE TIMES SATURDAY MAY 10 1997

Twickenham provides stage for final flourish to celebrate first season of professional era

Leicester seek to expand ranks of city's successes

By DAVID HANDS, RUGBY CORRESPONDENT

ALL good things, it is said, come in threes, which may comfort Leicester in their preparations for the Pilkington Cup final against Sale at Twickenham today. The city's football club has aiready for rugby league. In addition, Morris, who

claimed a trophy, the Coca-Cola Cup, Leicestershire are The county cricket champions and now Leicester have the opportunity for a rare treble adding a rugby union To do so they must cast aside the cares that have beset

them this past month and rediscover the form that made them well-nigh unbeatable (apart from by Brive) in the middle part of the season. That, as some other clubs have found of late, is never easy. Good form derives from consistency of playing personnel and that is precisely the problem that has plagued the closing stages of Leicester's league campaign.

Yet they will start favourites against a Sale team all too few of whose members have en-countered the rarefied atmosphere of a packed Twicken-ham. Playing in front of a frenzied 5,000 at Heywood Road is one thing: multiply that number by 15, with all the tensions of a first cup final, and the task confronting Sale. is all too apparent.

But at the heart of their side are three players - the M Club, you might say — all of whom have enjoyed the Twickenham experience. Dewi Morris knows the ground of old, as the England scrum half in 11 appearances there John Mitchell and Simon Mannix, No 8 and standoff half respectively, have

played in front of fervent provincial crowds. All three can be trusted to make the right decisions in the heat of hattle, as can Adrian Hadley, who played for Wales at Twickenham before leaving

never thought to make a cup final appearance, may see this as his genuine swansong. After the 1995 World Cup he retired, only to be lured back by Sale, this season and the zest for combat has been obvious. He has yet to decide, at the age of 33, whether to play on for a further season, though Sale hope they can persuade him to help in the development of a younger man - perhaps John O'Reilly, though the Cheshire club has been linked with Scott Benton,

"I can still hear the noise and taste the atmosphere [of international rugby] even now," Morris said. "Going back to Twickenham will be one of the great highlights of



Greenwood: return

TODAY'S TEAMS AT TWICKENHAM

)	N Maione	15 J	Matinder*
	C Joiner	.14 . D	Rees
l	W Greenwood	····-13 J	Bexendell - · · ·
	S Potter	12 A	Hadley
	L Lloyd	· 11 - T	Beam
	J Strænsky	10 S	Mannix
	A Healey	· 9 D	Morris
	G Rownsee	I P	Winstanley
	R Cockeria -	2 S	Diamond-
	D Garforth	3 A	Sonlith
	J Wells	. 6. N	Ashurat
	M Johnson*		Enskine
	M Poate	5 D	Baldwin
	N Back	7 D	O'Grady
	E Miller		Mitchell

REPLACEMENTS: PR Liley, QA Kardooni, RW Drake-Lee, SD Richards, TD West, US Hackney. REPLACEMENTS: 16 J O'Relly, 17 C Yales, 16 A Morris, 19 S Retcher, 20 L Hewson, 21 M Driver.

PATH'S TO THE FINAL: Leicester: beat Newbury 28-21 (h); beat Bath 39-28 (a); beat Newcastle 18-8 (a); beet Gloucester 26-13 (a). Sale: beat Fichmond 34-30 (h); beat Ornel 57-0 (e); beat Northampton 22-9 (e); beat Harlequins 26-16 (h). TELEVISION: Sky Sports 1: 2pm (ive): BBC2: Rugby Special 5.55pm (highlights)

Glittering prizes now in sight for Mallinder

Christopher Irvine on the Sale captain

who is discovering

success late in his playing career

my career. I can't wait." That

he will oppose a one-time

colleague at Orrell, Austin Healey, gives the occasion that

extra dimension, particularly as Healey will be among the

players trying to occupy this summer the British Isles jer-sey that Morris wore with

such distinction in New Zea-

It is important to Leicester

that Healey and their other

five Lions remove all thoughts

of the tour from their minds.

Next week they go into camp in Weybridge, this week is for

their club and their col-

leagues, with whom they have

shared the grind of a long and

difficult season. The restora-tion of Will Greenwood is

particularly important his

play at centre this season has

taken him to the verge of

international honours and it is

in midfield that Leicester have

This final is also for their

loyal supporters, who were denied a sight of league and

cup silverware last season and

may suffer the same ordeal

three times over this year.

Though Leicester's ticket allo-

cation was 17,500, nearer

30,000 of the crowd today will

be supporting them at a final

that has been downgraded in

recent weeks by pronounce-ments from all and sundry

that league positions, and

qualification for Europe, are

of more significance than a

trophy four times, and appeared in five more finals, that

is hard to take and may in any

case no longer be true next

season. There is pressure for

the cup-winners to take a

lish Rugby Partnership is also

likely to press for a change in

the distribution of money from

in a professional era as they

did in amateur days. Glubs

nearly £1 million are entitled

each finalist will get today.

which represents a big loss on

This is also the last event of.

a dramatic first full season of

professional rugby. Sale and

Leicester played out a drawn

game last week, which was

marred by occasional flash-points: Twickenham today

should be no place for settling

scores, rather it should show

off the "new" rugby in all its populist appeal. Two clubs,

both of whom can play with

tremendous clarity, should

provide the season with a fitting conclusion.

their investment.

For a club that has won the

been so porous recently.

land in 1993.

ucky Jim? Hardly. At 3L everything has come at a once for Jim Mallinder. After years with barely a flicker of recognition of his conspicuous talents beyond Sale, the most underrated full

back in England is suddenly

in vogue. A week after the Pilkington Cup final today, he travels with England to Argentina as first-choice No 15. Next season he will become a full-time professional at Heywood Road to strengthen his international claims towards the

1999 World Cup.
Until recently, the blind spot about Mallinder's selection extended to the entire Sale team. Was it more than widespread ignorance on the part of the selectors that none of the 59 players chosen by the home nations this season from the Courage Clubs Championship came from the side that finished fifth? The fact that Mallinder, David Rees and Jos Baxendell are Argentina-bound has, at least, ended the conspiracy theory.

Mailinder is hoping that the England management will relent on its apparent bias against Dave Baldwin, now that John Fowler, also of Sale, and Martin Bayfield, of Northampton, have withdrawn from the England party. No front-of-the-line jumper has made life more difficult for Martin Johnson, of Leicester, than Baldwin, whose fascinating duel with the British Isles captain re-

qualifying place in the Heineken Cup and the Engsumes today at Twickenham. "For me and Balders [Baldwin), life certainly gets better at 30-plus. I wish now I'd lied about my age, so I could say the Pilkington Cup.
It is clearly inequitable that
the same rules should pertain life begins at 25," Mallinder said. "If Dave can get on the Argentina tour, there'll be four of us from Sale. It's up to us to keep playing well and that generate gate receipts of force the selectors, now they've noticed us, to keep to more than the £35,000 that picking us."

Mallinder's epitomises Sale in a nutshell: infashionable, ignored, but always thoroughly watchable. In his early days there was a touch of Bambi to him: the long legs that make up one of the most powerful attacking strides in the game were prone to splay. When he joined Sale from the nowdefunct Roundhay club, in 1988, the side had been relegated to the second division and several years of struggle

Under first Paul Turner



Mallinder's strong running has brought success for Sale and international recognition

New Zealand coach, Sale mance in losing to France A. Heineken Cup to Leicester, have become a potent force. His inclusion in the provision-lake a vintage wine, al British Isles squad showed Like a vintage wine, Mallinder improves with age. Mitchell had his doubts about having a captain at full back, but Mallinder is an exceptional reader of the game, chiming into the line at precisely the right moment, as in his glorious try to help Sale beat Harlequins in the semi-finals. The captain has his "thinkers"

- Mitchell, Dewi Morris and Siroon Mannix — to dictate the flow in midfield. When his international chance emerged, Mallinder was determined not to blow it. On a miserable March night in Leicester, his two-try dis-

play stood out in an otherwise

risible England A perfor-

al British Isles squad showed he had arrived. "I've got an international career ahead of me and, in Argentina, I want to set a standard by which others will have to play better to oust me," he said.

After eight years as a physical education and mathematics master at William Hulme's Grammar School, Manchester. Mailinder is to concentrate on rugby and youth development work at Sale. It is a necessary step if he is to fulfil his ambition of playing in the next World Cup provided he is not seen as too

long in the tooth at 33. Having narrowly missed out on qualification for the after the draw with them last Saturday, Mallinder is determined to avenge that disappointment. He is mindful of the important absences of Charlie Vyyvan and Fowler. and that he has never been on the winning side against Leicester. If allowed to indulge their quick rucking game, Sale could put that record straight.

"Leicester will be trying to prevent quick delivery, so the referee will have an important part to play." Mallinder said. They've a great set of forwards, but we've some useful ones ourselves, perhaps not so well-known, but people who can make those at Twickenham sit up and take notice."

Melrose on course to bow out in style

By MARK SOUSTER

MELROSE stand on the verge of greatness, the best club side to compete in Scotland. The Tennents Premiership, their own sevens tournament and the Border League are already won after a season in which they have surpassed even their own high expectations.

Should they add the SRU Tennents Cup to their haul this afternoon at Murrayfield, a unique domestic grand slam will be theirs. It would be a feat that is unlikely to be repeated, yet the mood at the Greenyards is bitter-

ger-or-swoon

sniggers nor

may be due to

out needlessly with either his

my corners rout (BBC2) iting expert d a viewer shad

shed more

il actually ad reflector

illuminate

Whatever the result against Boroughmuir - both sides are at full strength - the team will effectively break up. 15 of them having been signed to play in one of four professional districts that will form the corner-stone of Scottish rugby from next season. Most of them are following Rob Moffat, the Melrose coach, whose last game this will be before taking over the reins of the Scottish Borders. Although the Scottish Rug-

by Union insists that contracted players will be available in the later stages of the season. in practice the clubs are being left to fend for themselves. "We're not necessarily saying that this is the last time we will see this team together, but that could be the reality," Keith Robertson, the Melrose director of rugby, said.
It would be fitting if Melrose

bowed out by winning the cup but the match against a Boroughmuir side that isalso losing Henry Edwards, its coach, and several others to the district cause is too close to call. Boroughmuir have hit a rich vein of form recently.

They have beaten four firstdivision clubs on the road to Murrayfield, including both the finalists from last year. Their record against Melrose is better than anybody's and the players would relish the prospect of Sean Lineen, the centre, marking his last appearance with victory.

Lineen, 35, and Douglas Wyllie, at stand-off half, who was first capped in 1982, form enced midfield axis - their combined ages are 71. Their experience is a precious commodity and they have had a huge influence on the development of the club's younger players, such as Graeme Beveridge, Campbell Aitken and Ally McLean.

BOROUGHMUR: C Altren: N Renton, D Lard: S Lineen, A McLeon: D Wylle: G Bevendge: S Pars. N Allan, S Perinen, A Cadzow, D Burns, G Marcallum, R Kiripathick, S Red Replacements: A Kright, B Reekle, S Anderson, D Cummighem, P. Lonnings, S Warnds
MELROSE: R Shepherd, D Stark, S Nichol. Ross Brown. M Moncrieff; C Chaimers, B Redpair, M Browne. S Brotherstone. P Wright, M Donnan. Robbie Brown, S Atken, N Broughton, C Hogg Replacements: A Purves, J Tumbull, W Lawne, M Ross. J McCall, A Clark. Referee: E Murray (Greenock Wander

Maggs called into Ireland tour party

caotain

By DAVID HANDS

Referee: B Campsall (Yorkshire)

BRISTOL, who are halfway towards preserving their first-division status and the commercial opportunities that go with it, received an additional boost to morale yesterday when Kevin Maggs, their young centre, was added to the Ireland development squad for the tour to New Zealand and Western Samoa.

Maggs, 22, takes the place of Jonathan Bell, the Northampton utility back, who is injured. He will join the squad after the second leg of the Courage Clubs Championship play-offs tomorrow, when Bristol take a nine-point lead into the meeting with Bedford at the Memorial ground and London Irish bid to recover a two-point deficit against Coventry at

Sunbury. The Bristol player notified Brian Ashton, the Ireland coach, of his antecedents too late to be chosen for the original party, which leaves next Thursday. By that time Bristol should have ensured their future against a Bedford team likely to feature Scott Murray in the back row, in the absence of Rudolf Straeuli, who has had an operation on his ruptured Achilles tendon and is not likely to resume training for at least three months.

Harlequins have denied reports of a rift between Richard Best, their director of coaching, and leading players, among them Will Carling, the former England captain. "Somebody is poisoning the harmony at Harlequins and when I find out who is harming us, there will then be a serious conflict," Roger Looker, the club chairman, said. "We do have to harmmer out a culture for the modern game, we have been working on it and I believe that our internal discussions have been blown up out of all proportion."

Neath, the Welsh League champions in

1996, and Newport will avoid relegation if they can, respectively, secure two and one league points against Caerphilly and Cardiff today. Dunvant are favourites to join Caerphilly, Treorchy and Newbridge in the second division next season, though they will all receive financial compensation from the Welsh Rugby Union, depending on their finishing order.

HOCKEY: TEDDINGTON AND HIGHTOWN CHASE COMPENSATION IN THE CUP

Double beckons for dominant Reading

BY SYDNEY FRISKIN

league this season. Pearn and Ashdown are both in the

England team to play

Germany in Dusseldorf at the

Teddington have two play-

ers from the England squad,

McGuire and Wallis, and the

former England and Great

Britain captain, Laslett, who

has taken a rest from interna-

Having won the cup in 1994.

Teddington would like to get

their hands on it again, but

they are already guaranteed a

place in the Cup Winners' Cup

competition next season, as

Reading have qualified for the

European club championship.

In the Hockey Association Trophy final, De Montfort

University from Bedford take

end of the month.

tional hockey.

SIMON MASON will be having scored 19 goals in the missing from the Reading team when they attempt to complete a league and cup double by beating Teddington in the Hockey Association Cup final at Milton Keynes tomortow. The England and Great Britain goalkeeper has not fully recovered from a back

Teddington, who have no injury problems, have a few scores to settle. They lost both league matches to Reading this season, finishing runners-Tup to them in the premier division by a point. In the cup semi-finals last season, Reading came from behind to deleas Teddington 3-2 and went on to win the trophy.

Reading's attacks are experied to be launched by their two front-runners. Ashdown and Pearn, with the latter

cautious approach

BY A CORRESPONDENT

Cullen rules out the

son spent staving off relega-tion. Hightown are hoping to finish on a positive note when they meet Doncaster in the semi-finals of the AEWHA Cup tomorrow.

Tina Cullen, Hightown's captain and prolific goalscorer, has just returned from international duty in Vancouver, where England won all four of their matches in as many days. Fatigue, she insisted, is not an issue.

"It will have been eight days since our last international and that's plenty of time to have recovered." Cullen said. "We've had a disastrous league season, losing heavily to Doncaster in one game and winning the other, which saved us from

on the winners from last year, relegation. "We know the cup game

AFTER a disappointing sea- will be tough, especially on their home ground in front of a big crowd. I believe that the side with the best mental approach will win, but we'll have to put in a lot of legwork and go out and play. There's no point in sitting back in the

> The Merseyside club, the league champions last year, have an abundance of experience but Doneaster have already shown that they do not care much for reputations and, after ensuring their Premiership place is safe, they are keen to make it to their first cup final.

> In the other semi-final, lpswich take on Clifton in a repeat of the final last year. when the Suffolk club triumphed in a penalty shootout after an indescribably dull

COMPREHENSIVE GUIDE TO THE WEEKEND FIXTURES

Kick-off 3.0 unless stated * denotes all-ticket match Nationwide League First division play-off Semi-finals, first legs * Crystal Palace v Wolverhampton Shelfield Utd v Ipswich Bell's Scottish League Premier division Matherwell v Duntermine First division

Airdne v St Johnstone Clydebank v East File Dundee v String Falkrik v Greenock Morton St Mimen v Parack Second division

Third division

Ross County v Montrose

FA Carisbarg Vase Final North Ferriby v Whitby SOUTH EAST COUNTIES LEAGUE: First

Aston Villa v Southampton (4.0)

Aston Ville v Southampton (4.0)

Backburn v Leloester (4.0)

Derby v Arsenal (4.0)

Evertion v Cinelsea (4.0)

Leeds v Middlesbrough (4.0)

Manchester Und v West Ham (4.0)

Newcasile v Nottingham Fontst (4.0)

Sheffield Wednesday v Liverpool (4.0)

Tottenham v Coveriny (4.0)

* Wimbledon v Sunderland (4.0)

denotes all-ticket match

FA Carling Premiership

Nationwide League

Second division play-offs Semi-finals, first legs

Third division play-offs Semi-finals, first legs

Cardill v Northampton (120) Chester v Swansea (20) ...

PONTIN'S LEAGUE: Premier of Leads v Stoke (at Halifax FC, 11.0)

FOOTBALL

WINSTONLEAD KENT LEAGUE First division: Chalhem v Sheppey, Cray v Thamscrinead, Furress v Canierbury, Greenwich v Whistable Town, Heine Bay v Crockerhal, Lordswood v Bedeenham GIRBERT LEAGUE OF WALES: Cupc Final: Bargor Cry v Barry (at Aberystwyth Town FC, 20)
MINERVA SOUTH MIDLANDS LEAGUE-Premier division: Arlesey v Welwyn Garden, Buchingham Athletic v Royston. SPIDSLEGH MIDLAND COMBINATION: Premier division: Alvechurch v Wertesbuurne; Coleshill v Wortestero. Handraham Timbers v Meir VA, Henggale v David Lloyd, Kentworth v Sudley Bkl. Smiley v Bolehall S Cup: Final Ling's Health v Knowle GUE: Ashlord v Cornthian-Casuals; Read-ang Town v Bedfont, Sandhurst v Netherne, NORTH WEST COUNTIES LEAGUE: First NOMEN VEST COUNTIES DEVICUE: YES
division: Eastwood of v Kidsgrove; Glossop
North End v Penrith: Holker Old Boys v
Mossley; Maine Road v Narriwich Town
ESSEX SENIOR LEAGUR: Premier division: Brentwood v Burnham Remblers,
East Harn v Blond, Hulbhodge Sports v
Concord Rengers
BANISS'S BREWERY LEAGUE: Cup: Finat: Wednesrebt v Westfields.

BANKS'S BRIEWERY LEAGUE: Cup: Fi-nat: Wednessretiv Westficks.
OLD BOYS' LEAGUE: Premier division: Glyn OB v Old Albysans. Old Ignations v Cardinal Manning OS; Old Tensonans v Old Yeushantans. REPRESENTATIVE MATCH: Highland League v FA XI (al Cove Rangers FC) SCHOOLS MATCH: English Schools Full Film Trophy: Final, second leg: Islangton and Camden v Liverpool (al Highbury, 230) RUGBY LEAGUE

NATIONAL CONFERENCE LEAGUE: Pro-

Nick-all 3.0 unless stated Pilkington Cup Final

Courage Clubs Championship Third division Exeter v Otley Havani v Harrogate Liverpool St Helens v Leeds Fourth division porth

Heretord v Lichlield . Shelfleid v Kendal . . Slourbridge v Sandal . Fourth division south Askeans v High Wycombe Berry Hill v Camberley Charitton Perk v Weston-super-Mare North Walsham v Metropolican Police Tabard v Barking MEDDLESEX SEVENS: Quelifying com-petition: at Beckenham, Cemaurs (Osterley), London Irish (Sunbury), Old-Minillians (Hamper), Old Paulines (Thames

Weish League First division Caerphility v Neath (2 30) Llanelli v Ebbw Vale (2 30)

Boroughmur v Meirose (at Murray/rekt)

Biggar v Selidrik (at Murrayfield, 11 0) SAU Tennents Shield Final

Glasgow High/Nelvinside v Hawick (at Murrayfield, 12 45)

Britannic Assurance county championship 11 0, final day of four DERBY: Derbyshire v Surrey HARTLEPOOL: Durham v Nottinghamshire BRISTOL: Gloucestershire v Hampshire Somersel WORCESTER: Worcestershire i

Leicestershire HEADINGLEY: Yorkshire v Glamorge OTHER SPORT SADMINTON: Yasaka Grand prix finals (ar

ECUESTRIANISM: Badminton Horse HOCKEY: AEWHA Under-19 club championship: Finale: Bradiord, East Grinsteed, Harleston, Otton, Portushead (at Milton Keynes, 930)

(a minur rayines, 9.3.)

SPEEDWAY: Elite League: Bradlord v
Poole (7.30); Coventy v king's Lynn
(7.30); Eastbourne v Swendon (7.30)

Premier League Cup: Berwick v
Newcaste (7.0) Postponied: Stoke v
Glasgow

TOMORROW

CRICKET Axa Life League 20.40 overs DERBY: Derbyshire v Surrey HARTLEPOOL: Durham v

Notinghamshire BRISTOL: Gloucestershire v Hampshire LORD'S: Middlesex v Susser NORTHAMPTON: Northamptonshire v WORCESTER: Worcestershire v Leicestershire HEADINGLEY, Yorkshire v Glamorgan

HOCKEY HA CUP: Pinal: Reading v Teddington (3:30) HA Trophy: Final: De Monitort University v West Hearts (1:0) Veterans: Trophy: Final: Cascoere v Basingstoke (11:0) Veterans: Cup: Final: Khalsa v Bisnop's Stortfor (5:30) (all matches at the Stadium, Milton Keynesi.

Bishop's Stortlord (\$ 30) (stil matches at the Stadium, Milton Krynest.

AEWHA CUP: Semi-finate: Doncaster v Hightown (at Benneithorpe 10), lpewitch v Cation (at Tudenham Road, lpowich, 12,0) AEWHA Plate; Semi-finate: Drifteld v Camberley (at Manorfeld Road, 20), Poynton v Leonraster (at Tythennglon HS, 130).

SCOTTISH CUP: Ment. Finet: MIM v Gordonians. (3.0): Women: Finet: Edin-burgh Ledies v Grove (at Petlermal, Edinburgh, 17.0) RUGBY UNION

Courage Clubs Champlonship First division play-offs Bristol v Bedford (3.0).... RUGBY LEAGUE

Kick-off 3.0 unless stated Stones Super League Bradlord v St Helens (7.30) Castleford v Parls (3.30)

First division Dewsbury v Whitehaven Keighley v Feetherstone Swinton v Wakefield Widnes v Huddersfield Winstone v Huddersfield Doncaster v Bramley Prescot v Carfiele York v Hunslet

Second division

OTHER SPORT AMERICAN FOOTBALL: World Lingue (WLAF): London Monarchs v Scothsh Claymores (at Starnford Bridge, 3 (1)

BADMINTON: Yasaka Grand prix linels (al MOTORCYCLING: British superbike championahips (# Snetterton)

MOTOR RACING: British formula three MOTOR RACING: British formula three champoniship (a) Salvassone;
SPEEDWAY: Indindual: Ecb Jones Memoral Trophy (a) Salvadon, 5 (i) Pramier Lague Cup: Glasgow v Edmburgh (6 (ii)), Newcastle v Bernoth (6 (ii)); Sucpress v Oxford (6 (iii)) Sucpress v Reading (6 (ii)) Premier League Challenge: Newport v Premier League AP-Stars (2 (ii)) Amsteur Lague: Burdon v Lattallan (ii) (ii)

THE TIMES GUIDE TO THE PREMIERSHIP'S FINAL WEEKEND

ARSENAL

When Derby played the Preimiership game at Highbury. Sturridge, their striker, ran the Arsenal defence ragged and the home side were lucky to get off the hook. Their ageing rearguard, whatever statistics say, is always vulnerable to quick players who run at it. Pitiful home performances against Blackburn and Newcastle and clear creative weaknesses in midfield and on the wings will mean summer signings. Several faces on parade at the Baseball Ground may be missing come next season.

DERBY COUNTY

After 102 years at the Baseball Ground, Derby will leave for their new home at Pride Park after the game against Arsenal tomorrow. Paul McGrath will be saying farewell too, having helped Derby to avoid relegation in their first season in the Premiership. McGrath is being released by the club. although he intends to prolong his career elsewhere. It would be nice if Paul could start and maybe come off early so we can all show our appreciation." Jim Smith. the manager, said.

ASTON VILLA

A win against Southampton tomorrow, or even a draw, will give Villa a return ticket to Europe next season. After their limp departure against Helsingborgs IF, of Sweden, in the first round of the Uefa Cup in September, Brian Little, the Villa manager, would love another bit of the continental cheery. It has been a consequent continental cherry. It has been a strange campaign in many respects, with plenty of good, bad and indifferent displays at Villa Park, but all will be forgiven and forgotten if safe passage is secured.

EVERTON

There was relief at Goodison yesterday, as the club celebrat-ed Premiership survival. Middiesbrough's draw at Blackburn means that Everton cannot go down, even if they lose against Chelsea tomorrow.

"I'm relieved because we've got so many injuries, and I didn't want to throw any more kids into a game we had to win,"
David Watson, the caretaker manager, said. Watson was prepared to take responsibility for relegation, a magnanimous gesture given his brief tenancy.

DM

SHEFFIELD WEDNESDAY

Cup opportunity — and also beat Liverpool into the bargain. David Pleat, the manager, is optimistic. "We have the opportunity and we will put up a good fight," he said. "If we

can beat Liverpool, there's no saying that

the teams above us will win their games."

Pleat needs Aston Villa and Chelsea to drop

SUNDERLAND

relegation, the board having set aside £500,000 for this purpose. To be sure of collecting such a windfall the team

must win at Wimbledon, but at least there is

no lack of incentive. They will be cheered on

by around 15,000 Wearside fans who are

making the trip to Selhurst Park. A Wimbledon spokesman said: "We're expect-

ing the biggest away following of the season and have made contingency plans."

Sunderland players will collect

individual bonuses of almost

_£40,000 each if they avoid

points if Wednesday are to have a chance o

finishing fifth.

It has been a calamitous few

days for Wednesday. Two de-

feats mean that they must rely on others to offer them a Uefa

BLACKBURN ROVERS

مكذا من الاص

Tony Parkes can expect some reward for his remarkable achievement of keeping Blackburn in the Premiership. When

he assumed control in November, it was supposed to be a two-week stint. Six months on, and he has completed the longest caretaker manager's spell in hist-ory. His prize will be the assistant manager's position under Roy Hodgson. "I'll be glad to step out of the spotlight. I didn't want the job when I took over, and I still don't now," Parkes said.

LEEDS UNITED

Only three times this century has a side in the top division scored fewer goals in a season than the 27 that Leeds presently boast. All were relegated, which reflects creditably on the Leeds defence, but less so on the entertainment provided at Elland Road. The game tomorrow should, in theory, be an exciting exception to a dull with the course. Middle because the course of rule because Middlesbrough require victory to avoid the drop. As for Leeds, even a draw could ensure a finish in the top half of the table.

HOW THEY STAND

Manchester United.

4 West Ham.....

2 Liverpool.... 3 Newcastie...

Aston Villa.

Wimbledon

it Leeds.

12 Leicester 13 Blackburn

15 Everton 16 Southampton

17 Sunderland

·18 † Middlesbrough ..

+30 +25 +28 +28 +12

CIGCIWW

WDLWL

WWWDDL WWDDL

WLDDL

DWDDI.

DIMIN

ססאבון

72 67

42 41

40

37 38

20 Nollinghern Forest 3Z 34 - 23

† Middlesbrough **Geol**ysted three points

CHELSEA

Rund Gullit has warned his Chelsea players about taking their foot off the pedal before the FA Cup Final, but there is scant incentive for them to risk life and limb in so marginal a game as this. Everton themselves, having scrambled to safety, will no longer be fuelled by desperation. Gianfranco Zola and his tricky hamstring will no doubt be saved for Wembley. This gives Gianluca Vialli another chance to prove he is no busted flush, so at least one player will have an incentive to shine. BG

LEICESTER CITY

Emile Heskey was left out of the England squad for the world under-20 championships in Malaysia in the summer. Quick, powerful and direct, Heskey surprised defenders early in the season but has appcared jaded of late, and with justification. Martin O'Neill, the manager, has not had sufficient strength in his squad to rest his prize asset but now that survival is guaranteed, he has licence to experiment against Blackburn tomorrow.

Common sense prevailed when

COVENTRY CITY

Coventry require victory, nothing less, against Tottenham at White Hart Lane tomorrow to stand a chance of preserving their Premiership status. Even that might not be enough; should results elsewhere go against them, and renowned escapologists that they are, after 30 years in the top flight, that they are, after 30 years in the top high matters appear grim. Gordon Strachan, the player-manager, is still planning ahead, having made a couple of recent trips to France to assess the available talent. Sadly, it looks like "au revoir". Gordon. RK it looks like "au revoir", Gordon.

LIVERPOOL

Distress in the Liverpool dress-

ing-room. The coaching staff are angry, and there are maybe only two players they wouldn't sell if the money was right," one chastened player admitted. The two? McManaman and Fowler, of course. Beyond the Scouse pair, things have stagnated and even the players grumble that nothing has changed from last season. There will be changes this summer, though, the first being the departure of Collymore, a move reportedly designed to promote more harmony. DM

MANCHESTER UNITED

There will, according to Alex Ferguson, the manager, be few comings at Old Trafford during the summer, and even fewer goings. Eric Cantona will be staying for another year, at least, and Brian McClair, the one out-of-contract player, will be offered an extension next week. If don't think there will be many signings. The squad we have got will be able to cope next season even if we don't add to it," Ferguson said, adding that he would be pleased with a break from "you lot" - the media. DM

MIDDLESBROUGH

Fabrizio Ravanelli is scheduled to fly in from Italy today after

intensive treatment on ham-string and back injuries. The striker could well start against Leeds at Elland Road tomorrow, when he is expected to undergo a theatrical late fitness test on the pitch before kick-off. Whether or not Ravanelli plays against Leeds, he now seems certain to feature in the FA Cup Final against Chelsea next week. By then, though, Middlesbrough could well be

NEWCASTLE UNITED

Kenny Dalglish has finally secured the signing of Shay Given, the highly promising young Blackburn goalkeeper. The Ireland international will complete a move on June 1, with a tribunal deciding the fee. Dalglish, though, still has other things on his mind. His side could yet finish second, and he is already looking to improve on that next season. "Manchester United are the best, but the gap is not wide, and there's no reason why we can't do it next year," he said. DM

NOTTINGHAM FOREST

If Manchester is the first city of football then Nottingham is the last. Forest matched their Trentside neighbours, Notts County, when they succumbed to relega-tion, and, given the expectation of a prompt return to the Premiership. Dave Bassett has undertaken arguably his biggest challenge in management by succeeding Stuart Pearce. At least he has the nucleus of a side to reverse the decline. Cooper, Crossley and Van Hooijdonk have pledged their futures, as has Pearce, in his playing capacity. RH

SOUTHAMPTON A draw at Villa Park tomorrow

will be enough for Southampton, unbeaten in seven games, to retain their Premiership place. Graeme Souness, the manager, is already planning for next season by signing Kevin Davies, the Chesterfield forward for whom he had a million pound bid rejected before the transfer deadline. The fee will be agreed by a tribunal. Less promising is the decision of Hampshire County Council to review planning permission already given

TOTTENHAM HOTSPUR

ment", whatever that is,

for Southampton's new ground.

There will be little tea and sympathy at White Hart Lane tomorrow, when Coventry visit in desperate search of Premiership survival. "It's more important for them.

than us but we can't afford to worry about that." Andy Sinton, the Tottenham winger said. That's not being unkind or harsh. We've just got to look after ourselves." Darren Anderton will again be missing because of injury and will soon travel to Sweden to undergo "bio-mechanical assess-

West Ham United

Their safety confirmed, West Ham can go to Old Trafford and play a full part in Manchester United's celebrations tomorrow. Harry Redknapp, the manager,

could not bring himself to tune in to the relegation denougment at Ewood Park on Thursday. "Frank Lampard [his assistant] listened to Clubcall and relayed messages, Redknapp explained. "We were deep in trouble but we kept our nerve. I don't want to go through that again." It may be good to talk, but it is even better to survive. KP

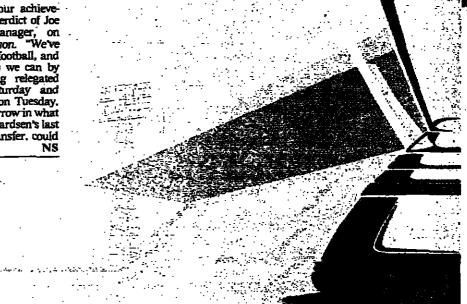
Reports: Brian Glanville, Russell Kempson, Richard Hobson, Nick Szczepanik,

:51



We're proud of our achievements." was the verdict of Joe Kinnear, the manager, on Wimbledon's season. "We've

won a lot of friends with our football, and we want to finish as high as we can by heating Sunderland." Having relegated Nottingham Forest last Saturday and ended Liverpool's title hopes on Tuesday, Wimbledon, with victory tomorrow in what is expected to be Oyvind Leonhardsen's last game before a £4.5 million transfer, could send Sunderland down.



EVERTON V

CHELSEA

TICKETS: Sold out

10-YEAR RECORD: 2-2/4-1, --, 0-1, 2-2, 2-1, 0-1, 4-2-3-3, 1-1.

HOW THEY LINE UP

EVENTON (from): N Southall, E Barrett, A Hinchcliffe, D Unsworth, T Phelan, D Watson, C Short, D Ferguson, G Speed, G Stuart, M Ball, M Branich, C Thomsen, N Barmby, R Durine, A Grant.

CHELSEA (from): K Hitchcock, D Petrescu, R Di Matteo, F Leboeuf, C Burley, G Vialli, M Hughes, E Johnson, F Sinclair, S Clerks, J Monis, E Newton, P Hughes, F Grodas, N Colgan, M Nicholls.

, SHEFFIELD WEDNESDAY v

LIVERPOOL

ASTON VILLA v SOUTHAMPTON

TICKETS: Sold our 10-YEAR RECORD: 3-1, --, 1-2, 2-1, 1-1, 2-1, 1-1, 0-2, 1-1, 3-0

HOW THEY LINE UP

ASTON VILLA (from) M Oakes, S Staunton, G Southgate, A Wright, A Townsend, I Taylor, M Draper, S Milkysevic, D Yorke, J Joachum, F Nelson, U Ehlogu, L Hendne, G Farrelly, R Scrneca, S Curcic,

SOUTHAMPTON (from): M Taytor, J Dodd: C Lundelwarn F Benati, R Dryden, J Magillon, E Berkovic, M Oakley, R Stater, M Evans, E Ostenstad, M Le Tissier, A Neilson, N Maddison, S Basham, U van Gobbel D Beasan

LEEDS UNITED V MIDDLESBROUGH

TICKETS: Sold out

10-YEAR RECORD: --, 2-6, --, 2-1 --, --, 3-0, --, --, 0-1

HOW THEY LINE UP LEEDS UNITED (from) N Martyn G Halle, G Kelly, L Radebe, C Palmer, D Wetherall, L Sharpe, A Dongo, R Wallace, M Ford, L Bowyer, I Rush, D Lilley, B Deane, I Harte, M Jackson, P Evans, R Molenaar, P Laurent, M Beeney

4 P D

MIDDLESBROUGH (Irom): B Roberts, C Fleming, N Pearson, G Festa, C Blackmore, P Stamp R Mustoe, Emerson, C Hignett, Juninho, M Beck, F Ravanelli, V Funder, N Cox. S Vickers, D Whyte

STATE SEDNESSCRESS AND A 24: A Shearer (Newcastle United)

21: I Wright (Arsenal) 18: Fi Fowler (Liverpool)

- 17: D Yorke (Aston Villa), O G Solskjaer (Manchester United) 16: F Ravanelli (Middlesbrough)
- 14: L Ferdinand (Newcastle Unit 13: D Dublin (Coventry City), M Le Tissier (Southampton) 12: S Collymore (Liverpool)
- 11: D Bergkamp (Arsenal), C Sutton (Blackburn Rovers), D Sturridge (Derby County), S Claridge (Lekester City), E Cardona (Manches United), Juninho (Middlesbrough), E Ekoku (Wimbledon)

The official internet site of the FA Carling Premiership is at http://www.fa-carling.com/

E Heskey, I Marshall, K Poole.

MANCHESTER UNITED v WEST HAM UNITED

BLACKBURN ROVERS Y

LEICESTER CITY

10-YEAR RECORD: ---, 3-3 0-0, 2-4 4-1, 0-1, ---, --, 3-0, --

HOW THEY LINE UP

BLACKBURN ROVERS (from) I Flowers, H Berg, Gille Saux, J Kenna, T Sherwood, C Hendry, G Donis, K Gallacher, L Bohlnen, I Pearce, G Filtoroff, S Ripley, P Warturst, S Given, W McKintay, P Pedersen.

LEICESTER CITY (from). K Keller. S Grayson. M Whittow, S Wafsh. M Ellicit. J Watts, S Prior. P Kaarnark, C Hill, F Rolling, S Campbell. S Wifson. N Lennon. M Izzel, S Guppy. S Clandge, M Robins,



TICKETS: Sold out

10-YEAR RECORD: 2-3, 3-1, 2-0, --, --, 2-1, --, 3-0, 1-0, 2-1 **HOW THEY LINE UP** MANCHESTER UNITED (horr, P. Schmeichel, G. Neville, R. Johnsen, D. May, P. Neville, K. Poborsky, D. Beckham, R. Keane, B. McClair, P. Scholes, A. Cole, O.G. Schskaer, E. Cantoria, R. van der Gouw

WEST HAM UNITED (from), 1 Miklosko, R Half, R Ferdinand, S Bilic, S Potts, M Rieger, S Lomas, H Porfino, I Bishop, M Hughes, S Lazindis, J Hartson, P Keson, M Ombyrotti



10-YEAR RECORD: 1-0, 2-2, 1-1, 3-2, 2-2, 4-3, 0-2, 1-2, 1-3, 3-1 HOW THEY LINE UP

TOTTENHAM HOTSPUR (from): E Baardsen, R Vega, S Campbell, J Scales, J Edinburgh, S Can. R Fox J Dozzell, E Sheringham, A Sinton, D Austin, P LacVeigh, S Brown, N Fern, J Clapham, D Hill, COVENTRY CITY (from.) S Ogrizovic, P Telfer, R Shaw, P Williams, D Burrows, G Strachan N Whelian, K Richardson, G McAllister, P Ndiovu, D Dublin, D Huckarby, E Jess, G Breen, A Evtushok, W Boland, M Hali, J Filan



DERBY COUNTY Y ARSENAL

10-YEAR RECORD: --, 0-0, 2-1, 1-8, 0-2, --, --, --, --, --, --. HOW THEY LINE UP

DERBY COUNTY (from): M Poom, J Laursen, P McGrath, C Dailly, G Rowett, R van der Lean, P Trollope, A Asanovic, C Powell, A Ward, R Willems, P Wanchope, M Solis, D Powell, P Simpson, D Yetes, M Tardes

ARSENAL (from): D Searnan, M Kaown, A Adams, S Bould, R Parlour, P Merson, P Vieira, N Winterburn, D Platt, D Bergkamp, S Hughes, L Dixon, S Marshall, N Anelka, P Shaw, I Selley, J Lukic.



NEWCASTLE UNITED V NOTTINGHAM FOREST

10-YEAR RECORD: 3-2, 0-1, 0-1, --, --, --, --, --, 2-1, 3-1. HOW THEY LINE UP NEWCASTLE UNITED (from): P Smicek, S Watson, D Peacock, P Albert, J Berestord, K Gillespie, W Barton, D Betty, R Effort, A Shearer, L Ferdinand, F Asprilla, S Hislop, R Lee, L Clark.

TICKETS: Sold out

NOTTINGHAM FOREST (from): A Fattis, D Lyttle, At Haaland, C Cooper, N Jerkan, S Chettle, S Pearce, B O'Nell, S Germmil, C Alber, D Saunders, P van Hooijdonk, K Campbell, D Phillips, B Roy, I Moore.



HOW THEY LINE UP WIMBLEDON (from): N Suttivers, K Cumringhem, A Kimble, V Jones, R Serie, P Feer, D Holdsworth, M Gayle, C Perry, B McAllister, N Arcley, J Eueli, A Reeves, D Jupp, A Clarke, P Heald. SUNDERLAND (from): 1. Perez. G Hall, D Kubicki, M Gray, R Ord, I. Howey, D Williams, P Bracewell, K Ball, C Waddia, P Stewart, N Quinn, A Rae, M Smith, C Woods, M Bridges, D Kelly, J Enkisson



Spm: Sky Sports ! Leeds United v Middlesbrough (live) Sport Sky Sports 2 Manchester United v West Ham Gol 9.20pm: BBC! Match of the Day (highlights)

TICKETS: Seals available 10-YEAR RECORD: 0-1, 1-5, 2-2, 2-0, --, 0-0, 1-1, 3-1, 1-2, 1-1. HOW THEY LINE UP SHEFFIELD WEDNESDAY (from): K Pressman, I Nolan, D Walker, D Stefanovic, R-Humphreys, G Whittingham, B Carbone, P Atherton, M Pembridge, A Booth, D Hirst, R Banker, S Nicol; G Whittingham, G Hyde, O Dobaldson, S Oakes, M Clarke, A Poric;

LIVERPOOL (from): D. James, B.T. Kvarme, N. Ruddeck, M. Wright, S.I. Bjornebye, J. McAteer, J. Redkrapp, S. McManarran, M. Thotras, S. Collymore, M. Green, P. Berger, A. Warner,

WHEN TO WATCH ON TELEVISION

*Fight for survival reaches the point of no return

BY DAVID MADDOCK

THE championship has been as Ravanelli, Juninho and concluded already, but FA Carling Premiership football arrives at its annual denousment this weekend with plenty of plot still to be unravelled. The North East club tomorrow On a day that television idio-syncratically dubs Super Sunday", not least among those issues yet to be resolved is the eract state of the English

Last season. Manchester United required 82 points to secure the title. This time, 71 points sufficed. A year ago, Bolton Wanderers were relegated with 29 points and 38 points ensured survival. On Sunday, Middlesbrough, Coventry City, Sunderland and Southampton will attempt to avoid relegation knowing that 41 points may not save them. There has been a distinct narrowing of the Premiership. The question is, does that mean quality has improved or

The evidence of Middlesbrough's plight would suggest that English foetball has been enhanced by the opening of its borders to the hordes of for-eign players entering these shores. Without players such he'd be on a plane on Saturday

GEORGE BURLEY, the Ips-

wich Town manager, has fond memories of Wembley. He played in the Ipswich side that defeated Arsenal 1-0 in the 1978 FA Cup Final and has

sensed a similar spirit of joie de vivre before the club's

Nationwide League first divi-sion play-off against Sheffield

for the first leg of the semifinal and, though the right to

go on to Wembley has yet to be:

earned, Burley is encouraged

by the enthusiastic response in

the town. "It's great to see all

the shops decked out in blue

and white again," he said.

"People are queneing for tick-

ets and everyone wants to talk

about the game. It's tre-

However he is less im-

pressed by Ipswich's success
two 3-1 league victories

against United this season.

said. "If anything, it will make

United even more determined

to beat us. I don't think

anything will be decided this

time around. I expect two very

Crystal Palace's memories

of the national stadium are not

so distant and certainly not so

close, tense matches."

That means nothing now," he

mendous."

United this afternoon.

By Russell Kempson

extra time.

Emerson within their ranks, surely they would have been already doomed by now. Nothing but victory will do for and, even then, they need Wimbledon to hold Sunderland if they are to stay up.

It is not as simple as that, of

course, and events on Teesside yesterday supported the theory that Middlesbrough will be relegated because their foreign players, or at least some of them, care little for the club and its traditions. Ravanelli, the centre forward whose goals will surely be required to defeat Leeds United tomorrow, flew home to Italy yesterday, apparently to

treat a hamstring injury.
It did not go down well with his team-mates. Curtis Fleming said: "I just hope he flies back soon and isn't concentrating on just being fit for the Cup Final because the Leeds match is much more important. He should be here having treatment."

Bryan Robson, the Middles

favourable. A year ago, they

played Leicester City in the

first division final and were

beaten by a goal from Steve

Claridge in the final minute of

er, beset by injury problems. Jimmy Quinn and Mick Gooding, the joint player-managers of Reading, left the

first division club by mutual

consent vesterday after 22

years at Elm Park. John

Madejski, the Reading chair-

man, said: "We have decided

to go forward under a new

with experience."

summer recruitment.

Burley revels in **Ipswich revival** woeful for much of the year.

It is the intense struggle at the bottom of the table, however, that the majority of supporters will find most engrossing this weekend. There remains the distinct and ghoulishly amusing possibili-ty that Middlesbrough will reach both cup finals and be

Steve Coppell, who replaced -Dave Bassett in February, has quietly guided Palace back to form, after they lost their way in mid-season, and they take Inswich visit Bramali Lane on Wolverhampton Wanderers in their semi-final, first leg at Selhurst Park today. Wolves might have to wait for the return at Molineux to make an impression with league since December. Mark McChee, their manag-

Southampton will be relegated if they lose 1-0 and Middlesbrough win by three clear goals. Sunderland are the next best-placed team at the bottom and a win at Wimbledon would ensure that their new stadium will experience Premiership football next season and that is a prospect that still appears plausible to

regime. We'll be looking for one manager only, somebody Trevor Francis, the Birmingham City manager, has made his 28-strong first-team squad available for transfer after discovering that he has less funds than he expected for

morning. He went to Italy because he believes in the treatment there and he said he has trained for two days and told me he would definitely be playing at Elland Road." Southampton and Coventry escaped relegation on goal difference last season and here position. In the argument surrounding quality, the suggestion is that things have got

Any glance at events at the top of the table tomorrow. however, surely provides ammunition for those who wish to demolish the ivory tower that has been the reputation of the English game for far too long now, Manchester United have won the championship with ridiculous ease while playing consistently below their best. They have conceded ten more goals this season than last and even Alex Ferguson, their manager, admits that the title has been won despite the distraction of the

neither better nor worse.

None of their challengers has remotely suggested they have the air of champions. Liverpool will secure second place above Newcastle United and Arsenal - and with it the second berth in the European Cup - if they defeat Sheffield Wednesday tomorrow, and yet they have been quite

European Cup.

Another damning statistic of English football shows that Leeds, Middlesbrough's opponents, have reached eleventh place despite scoring 27 goals in 37 games. They have at-tained such heights, though, because they have not conceded a goal at Elland Road in the

Peter Reid, their manager.

Southampton and Middlesbrough, however, appear to possess a touch more class than their rivals and thus, it could be that Sunderland and Coventry join Nottingham Forest on that awful journey into the Nationwide League first division.



Winning battle to stay sane in Spain

ing, staring at a Spanfrom the front page. There is a picture of Josep Lluis Núñez, the Barcelona president, on one side, a picture of Lorenzo Sanz, the Real Madrid president, on the other. Above them both, the headline reads. 'Open Fire".

It is the sheer madness of his life in the battle zone that seems to amuse the Barcelona coach: the headlines, the children clamouring around his car, the club flags fluttering from buses, the fact that every city-centre hotel is full to bursting this weekend. The descent into obsession in this elegant Catalan city has embraced him now.

When Robson first took charge of the dub last summer, the lunacy beset him, but now it almost cradles him in its excitement and its frenzy.

In fact, yesterday, despite all the recent speculation that he was Everton-bound and that Louis van Gaal, the former Ajax coach, was due to replace him at the end of this season, Robson was on a high. Real Madrid, Barcelona's great "white rival", are the opponents at the Nou Camp tonight, the biggest Spanish match of the year and things are hotting up. If Barcelona can beat the

Spanish league leaders, they will cut Real's advantage to five points with five tricky games left to play. Then, next Wednesday, Robson's team will travel to Rotterdam to contest the Cup Winners' Cup final against Paris Saint-Germain. At the end of next month, they will contest the Spanish Cup final, too.

At the Nou Camp, the players are filtering into the changing-rooms for their final training session, while in the plush reception rooms that surround the coach's office, Robson is dancing about on the thick carpet, laughing again about absurdity.

It sounds bizarre, but there is even speculation now, after the announcement by Fabio Capello, the Real Madrid manager, that he is to leave at the end of the season, that Van Gaal may not go to Barcelona after all, but may be tempted by Real, leaving Robson un-

encumbered in Barcelona. "It is impossible to tell what a coach's position is here in Spain, Robson said. Here, it is a question of results. Whoever you are, if you lose two or three games on the trot, you will be on the plane home. Contracts do not mean a

To illustrate his point. Robson stands up, sinks his feet into the carpet and begins stamping across the room to

BOBBY ROBSON

THE FACE OF FOOTBALL

By Oliver Holt

demonstrate what a solid start Barcelona made to the season. The best start in 33 years, he said. Then, when he has nearly reached a sofa, he wobbles his legs wildly. "That

was a defeat," he said. "Can you imagine if I was a manager in England and 1 had got a club to two finals and we were second in the league. The chairman would have me in a corner and he would be saying: 'Get this guy on a three-year contract or he is going to be snapped up'. The fact that they know that I am a decent fellow, an honest

tMoin Khan, Séolain Mushteq, Mohammad Hussein, Abdul Razze⊦ and Agib Javed to

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-45, 2-92 3-106, 4-189

BOMUNG: Penn 6-0-50-1, David 6-0-29-0 Haris 10-2-34-0, Laisen 7-0-31-1 Pale 7-0-36-0, Astie 3-5-0-21-1

CYCLING

Umpres S Venkataraghavan (India) and k T Francis (Sn Lanka)

Savoktelk (It) at 4.

would make that more likely. But there is no chance of that happening here.

This is a place where you could have a headline, 'Barcelona Win 6-0 But Do Not Play Any Football, I could get angry about that, but I just dismiss it. That is criticism of such lunacy that it is not worth getting upset about."

Robson repeatedly returns to the theme of madness. He tells a story about one of his predecessors, Rinus Michels, talking to him soon after Robson had taken the Barcelona job and banging his head with his hands to signal that managing the biggest club in the world can make your head explode.

Robson's mind, though, is very much intact as he approaches 65. He rattles off facts at will. Barcelona have scored 91 goals in 36 league matches this season; they have played 14 games more than Real Madrid because of their success in Europe and in the Spanish Cup: they will have six Spanish players in their team tonight, compared

with Madrid's three. If there is a madness here, it is an intoxicating kind of fever, fed by huge doses of adrenalin, glamour and scrutiny, riddled with nervous tension but potentially more inspiring than ordinary life at

been linked with vacancies at Newcastle United, Everton and Celtic, but none has tempted him away. The future is uncertain, but the possibility of a second crack at the league title next year and competing in the Champions' League is too attractive to forsake.

"I would like to think it was 100 per cent that I would be here next season," Robson tract after all. But I cannot say that, I could in England, but this is different. There is talk of Louis van Gaal and they may see him as the future, but they say I have a contract and

t is a guestion of waiting until the end of the season and I know that other jobs might come and go. But we are in two finals here. How can I even think of leaving when there is a chance I could be in the European

Cup final next year? This club is phenomenal. the best squad of players I have ever had. If I was a young coach, I might be thinking. 'What is going to happen to me?' But I am fireproof in a way. I know that if I want to work somewhere I will be able to get a job. Not every coach can say that. That is why I can sleep at night."

RUGBY LEAGUE: HUGHES UNHAPPY AT CROSS-CODE ADVENTURES

Wigan hope to close union frontier

events of last Saturday were now

"flushed from our system". Yet the

physical scars linger, and, with Robbie

Paul and Sonny Nickle laid up for

possibly six weeks. Bradford must cope

without two key players.
Paul's damaged foot ligaments, which

the Bulls trust can be repaired before the

first round of world club championship

matches next month, present a more

awkward question of inspiration and

puts a big responsibility on Steve McNamara and Graeme Bradley, the

other members of the brains trust in

midfield. However, Jeff Wittenberg, Paul

Anderson and Mike Forshaw, who had

an ill-fated stint in rugby union at

Saracens, are available again after being

St Helens, still without Alan Hunte,

expect to be unchanged for a match that side that beat Wigan two weeks ago.

which is the group that 1/2 to 75p.

cup-tied... ..

BY CHRISTOPHER IRVINE

WIGAN Warriors, stuck in mid-table in the Stones Super League, are to discourage players from taking up rugby union contracts at the end of this season. Despite the shortterm profit gained from loaning out players, the brief flirtation with union last year cost Wigan dear, with Valaiga Tuigamala being converted back to his original code and Henry Paul. Jason Robinson and Gary Connolly reporting back in weary condition after their back-to-back seasons.

Eric Hughes, the Wigan coach, said: Both Connolly and Paul brought back injuries from playing union, while Tuigamala Inow with New-castlel and Robinson both looked jaded when they got back to Central Park. Players should decide which game Bradford prepare to set record straight

EIGHT days on, the question at Odsal

tomorrow night will be whether St

Helens have shaken off their hangover

from winning the Silk Cut Challenge

Cup, or whether Bradford Bulls have

erased the memory of losing a second

successive final and can reverse the result.

Bradford easily beat St Helens at home

at Wembley (Christopher Irvine writes).

last season, although it did not stop

the inaugural Stones Super League

championship going to Knowsley Road.

Maintaining their 100 per cent league record would take Bradford four points

clear at the top, victory for St Helens

would give them the lead on points

According to Paul Loughlin, who

knows better than anyone about han-

dling Wembley defeats — he suffered his

fifth final loss there this year - the

difference.

they are going to play. I appreciate that a great deal of money is involved, but there is

more to consider than that." Connolly, while selected in the centre for the home match against London Broncos last night, might require corrective knee surgery for a condition aggravated at Harlequins, while neither Robinson nor Paul, who had missed five matches before his planned return last night, especially benefited from their short stint with Bath, other than in monetary terms.

Two months after Paul Koloi was signed by Wigan, ostensibly as a replacement for Tuigamala, the club is still awaiting a work permit for the Tongan after an application was submitted several weeks ago. "We'll just have to be patient," Jack Robinson, the Wigan chairman, said.

Paul Rowley, the Halifax Blue Sox and England hooker, who is being pursued by Wigan and Leeds Rhinos, said that he is prepared to go to court, unless the club declares

him a free agent when his

contract expires at the end of the year. Wigan and Leeds have both had offers rejected for Rowley, 21, one of the best young hookers in the game. Not only is Rowley angry at the fee of £300,000 that Halifax are asking for him, but he also said that a new contract offer made to him by the club in no way reflected the value placed on him in the transfer

market. In a series of moves involv-ing first-division clubs, Swinton Lions signed Jimmy Veikoso, a £45,000-listed Tongan centre, from Leigh Centurians, in exchange for Steve Gibson and John Gunning and a cash adjustment. Leigh have also signed Lathan Tawhai, a New Zealand scrum half, from Keighley

Cougars. Paul Dixon is returning to Huddersfield Giants, his home-town team, on a free transfer from Sheffield Eagles. Dixon, 34, the former Great Britain back-row forward, has signed a deal until the end of the season at the club where he began his

Warrington Wolves have re-signed Tony Thorniley, their former wing, on loan from struggling Widnes Vi-kings. The bottom-placed first division club has failed in attempts to sign Darren Wright, from Sale rugby union club, and Andy Currier, who is on loan from War

is essential to their chances of retaining

the Super League. They were beaten

50-22 at Odsal last June, when the title

looked to be headed Wigan's way. Less

than a year on, there is little argument

that St Helens and Bradford are in a

the largest of the day and could exceed

the 17,360 for the match against Wigan

last season, Bradford's biggest for 23

years. Nevertheless, Bradford are not

alone. Nine of the 12 Super League clubs

have increased their attendances this

season, including Salford Reds, who

have doubled their support from the first

division last year to more than 5,000, an

average that should be boosted by the

visit of Leeds Rhinos. Salford, unbeaten

at the Willows for 15 months, retain the

The Odsal crowd will comfortably be

league of their own.

AUSTRALIAN RULES AUSTRALIAN LEAGUE: Collingwood 17.9 (111) bt North Melbourne 9 14 (88). BASEBALL

NATIONAL LEAGUE: Houston 4 New York Mets 2: St Louis 6 Philadeliphia 2: Colorado 8 Pitisburgh 10; San Diago 2: Chicago Cubs 6: Florida 5 Alfanta 1. AMERICAN LEAGUE: Diction 0 Kansas

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION (NRA): Pley-offs: Semi-limals: Eastern Conference: Chicago 85 Atlanta 103 (test-of-seven-senes tied 1-1). Western Conference: Los Angeles Lakers 104 Utah 84 (Utah lead bost-of-seven series 2-1)

BOXING

NEW ZEALAND D N Patel run out ... tA C Parore not out Extras (tb 2, w 9, mb 2) ...

Total (7 wids, 50 overs) . A Penn and H T Davis did not bat. FALL OF WICKETS 1-155, 2-234, 3-236, 4-256, 5-264, 6-264, 7-222. SOM ING: About Razzak 7-0-45-1; Aqib Javod 8-0-70-1; Shahd Alndi 10-0-49-1; Saqlain Mushtaq 10-0-38-3; Mohammad Hussain 5-0-36-0, Salim Matik 10-0-45-0

FOR THE RECORD

City 1: New York Yankees 5 Texas 4; Baston 7 Mmresola 10: Cleveland 3 Toronto 4; Battimore 13 Seettle 3; Chucago White Sox 10 Qakland 6 BASKETBALL

MANSFIELD: World Boxing Organisation inter-continental leatherweight champion-ship (12 mds) Steve Robinson (Cardif) to Julio Désar Sanchez-Leon (Med 7th. Fry (6 mds): Ross Cassaly (Derby) drow with Sean Green (Doncaster) Fly (10 rds): Mark Reynolds (London) to Steve Williams (Mensiteid) ret (8th. Super-bantam (6 mds): Geografo Medina (Med) b) Peter Buckley (Birmingham) into Carl Greenes (Newash; sec 4th Light (6 mds): Dean Sramhald (Doncaster) bit Chris Pegg (Newash) pis. Middle (6 mds): Paul Jones (Sheffield) bit Lee Bundel (Wigan) isc 4th. Lee Blundell (Wigan) Isc 4th.

DULUTH, Georgia: Attanta Classic: Leeding first-round scores (United States unless stated): 84: D Pooley 68: N Proceed 62: N, Sempson, D Harmond, R Waddits, D Duval 67: S Dunlap 68: R Estes, J Haes, D Forsman, C Karvado, S Kendall, 69: S Gump, M Bresty, D Hest, L Jancon, D Torne C Rymer, C Bowleen, C Sullina, M Davison G Day, H Sutton, W Glasson, J Galaghor Other score: 70; G Norman (Aus.) PAKISTAN Ectras (b 2 w 7, rd 3)

ICE HOCKEY

WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP. At Helsinki: Championship group: Sweden 1 Czech Ropublic 0; Canada 2 Russal 1 At Tempers: Relegation group: Larva 6 France 2 Germany 4 Norway 2.

NATIONAL LEAGUE (NHL): Stanley Cupplay-offs: Serul-finals: Eastern Conference: New York Rangers 3 New Jersey 0 (Rangers lead best-of-seven series 3-1) Western Conference: Archelin 2 Derrol 3 (201) (Deltait wins series 4-0)

DUNKIRK: Four-day race: Third stage (Roost Warrender to Sant-Quentin, 932 stometres; 1, P Gaumont (Ft, Coldes) 2m 31mm Odsec: 2, J Birjevens Holl, TVM) 4, M van der Wolff (Holl, Ferektovado); 4, Wust (Ge., Fesing); 5, M Bellin in, Ages). OSTEND: European championships (colected results) Men; Unider 65kg; First
tound Jowns (68) bi J Kma; (Slovako)
Second round: Davis lost to H Ochan (fur)
Repechage: Davis bi J. Cirero (Slovako)
Second round: Davis lost to H Ochan (fur)
Repechage: Davis bi J. Cirero (Sp) (Davis
qualifies for repechage semi-linals tomorrown Unider 71kg; First round; D Inngston
(68) bi L. Preda (Rom) Second round:
Kingston bi C Constandinou (Cyp) Quarter-finals: Kingston lost to G Vazeguchvill
(Georgic). Repechage: Kingston bi B
Demirel (fur) (Lungston qualifies for repechage semi-finals tomorrow) Unider 78kg;
First round: G Randell (GB) bi M Novals
(Swe) Second round: Randell lost to J
Jaals (Be) Repechage: Randell lost to J
Jaals (Be) Repechage: Randell lost to J
Autou (Azerbayan) Women: Unider 55kg;
First round: S Rendel (GB) bi S Demiral
(fur) Second round: Rendle lost to T
Meyer (Holl) Unider 55kg; Risst round: N
Farbrother (GB) bije Second round: N
Farbrother (GB) bye Second round:
(Sp) (Repechage: Farbrother bi T Mauritinger
(Gen) (Farbrother qualifies for repechage
semi-finals (onerono) Unider 81kg; First
round: C Peel (GB) bije Second tound:
Peel to M Janosskora (Slovativa)
(Peel qualifies for repechage semi-linals
lamprow) M van der Wolff (Hoff, Forektorado); 4. M
Wust (Be, Festina); 5. M Bellin (h. Ascs);
6. G van Boendt (Bel, Waanderen 2002) all
same time Fourth stage (14.2-Mometre
tame-hial) 1. J.Musseuw (Bel, Mape); 17mm
15sec, 2. L van Bon (Hol, Rebotarik) at
18ebc, 3, F Vanderbroucke (Bel, Mape); 3f
21, 4, D Conlinn (ft, Brescelat); al 35, C
Bassons (Fr, Festina); at 31, 6. M Crepaldi
(ft, Polth at 39 Firth stage (Amens to
Gravelines, 175 Sam); 1. BiFgorens 4hr
15mm 10sec; 2. D Abdusporov (Uzb.
Lotto); 3, F Moncason (Fr, Gan); 4, J
Kirspuu (Est, Cesino); 5. M Pocoh; (ft,
Casino); 6. Gaumoni all same time Overall
positions; 1. Museauw 14hr 58mm 45sec;
2. Vandenhoucke at 19soc; 3, M Matton
(Bel, Marcel); at 27, 4, Van Bon 33, 5, A
1chmi (Russ, Lotte); 35; 6. Coninni 39,
170UR OF ROMANDY: Second stage (Le
Locie to Estavayer-lo-Lac, 17; 7 + Nometrics); M Capolini (li); 4hr 21mm 45ce;
2. M Traversoni (hr; 3, F Beldato (li) both
same time Overall positions; 1, C Board
man (GB) Shr 26min Ossec; 2, E Breukel
Hold) at 2sec; 3, D Baranowski (Pol) at 3, 4,
P Savolcieli (It) al 4.

REAL TENNIS HOLYPORT: Potention British protessional singles chempioniship: First
round: M Ryan bt A knibbs 6-1, 6-2, 6-4; C.
Swallow bt P Luck-Hille 6-1, 0-6, 6-2, 6-1; K.
king bt C Lumiey 6-2, 5-6, 3-6, 6-5, 6-2, M.
Laftem bt A Other 6-5, 6-1, 6-2, S Virgona
wo M Cogliam scr. J Howell bt M Eadle 6-2
c-1, 6-2, P Tabley bt A Phillips 5-6, 4-6, 6-1,
6-5, 6-5, N Wood bt J Dawes 6-1, 6-5, 6-1; C.
Fray bt J Beaumont 6-1, 6-1, 6-3, D Jones
bt k Sheldon 6-2, 6-2, 4-6, 4-6, 6-1; J Male
bt A Lyons 6-4, 6-3, 6-2, S Brockenshaw bt
S Rorakiston 6-1, 6-1, 6-4, M Segmont bt P
Patterson 6-2, 6-3, 6-2, P Tobley bt F king
6-0, 6-0, 6-2

RUGBY LEAGUE

Super League tri-series New Zealand 12 Queensland New Zenland: Tries: Jonus, Timu Goelle: Ngerriu 2 Queensland: Tries: Webcke, Carroll. Wahers, Longer, Rogers Goals:

usi Fureson Startum Aurillandi. ALLIANCE CHAMPIONSHIP: Huii 28 Wagan 16. Oldhern 20 Foatherstone 22: Wernington 20 Halitax 38; St Hotens 4 Braditord 25 AUSTRALIAN LEAGUE (APIL). Sydney City 22 SI George 8

RUGBY UNION

Super 12 tournament 15 NSW Otego Hightenders Try: Falaniko Cultaria, Pens: Cultarie 3 New Wales Waratahs; Tries: Madz, Mo Bhal Cons: Burke 3 Pens; Burke 2 (at Carisbrook, Dunedin)

48 Warkato Australian Capital Territory Brus Tries: Rolf 2. Coker, Friegan, G Hasdy, Lardram Corrs; knoz 5 Perc Walketo Chiefs: Tries: Rush 3. Const Foster 4 Pens; Cooper 2

SPEEDWAY

PREMIER LEAGUE CUP: Sheffield 53

TENNIS

HAMBURG: Men's tournament: Quarterfinals: F Mantitle (Sp) bi H Avap (Mor) 4-6, 7-6, 6-4, T Hass (Get) bi A Besassiegui (Sp) 2-6, 6-2, 6-3 Y Natellinkov (Russ) bi A Costa (Sp) 6-3, 6-0. A Medivedev (Ulq) bit S Bruguera (Spi 6-4, 7-6 CORAL SPRINGS: Flondar Men's tournament: Second round: J var; Herck (Bet) bit S Stoff (Aus) 6-3, 4-6, 6-3, D Wit (US) bit F Fontang (Fri 4-6, 2-3 tet, M Woodfords (Aus) bit P Horda (Ch) 1-6, 6-4 ret, J Stoffenberg (Aus) bit M Norman (Swe) 6-0, 3-6, 6-4

3-6, 6-4

ANTALYA, Turkey: Fed Cup: Europe/
Alrica group bero: Pool A: Great Britain tot
furmeria 3-0 (Great Britain names, first tot
twood bit A kreatesia 6-1, 6-2, 5 Smith bit S
Samguillain 6-0, 6-3 Wood and t Woodhorte
to Samguillain 6-0, 6-3 Wood and t Woodhorte
to Samguillain of Domnaris 2-1 (Great Britain
names less Wood kert of E Oyestung 3-6,
6-4, 3-6, Smith bit 5 Albrings 4-6, 6-4, 6-2, D

Britain and Woodholts in Exembers and promotion to Europe-Africe group one.

ROME: Women's tournament: Third round: C Martine2 (Sp) bt E Likhouseus (Russ) 6-2, 6-1 | Spikes (Rom) bt D van Roost (86) 6-1, 6-3, 4-3 Sinchez Viezna (Spi b) S Appelmars (Beli 6-3, 6-4; P Schmyder (Switz) bt A Coetzer (SA) 7-6, 7-6; M Pierce (Fr) bt M Seles (NS) 7-6, 7-6; R Dragomir (Rom) bt I Majoh (Cro) 4-8, 6-4, 6-3; B Paulus (Austral) bt F Lubian (Iti 6-2, 6-1) Courrier-fignals: Marrinez bt J Fruger (SA) 6-0, 6-4, Paulus bt Spiriea 6-4, 6-2; Pierce bt Dragomir 6-3, 6-4

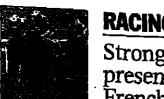
Dragomir 6-3, 6-4 event (Great Britain unless stated): Men: Second round: L Milligan bt D Roctit (Men.) Second round? I. Milligan bit D. Rodnii Med.
6-3, 6-2: A. Belobraghe (Aus) bit M. Bok (Holi)
6-3, 6-2: A. Belobraghe (Aus) bit M. Bok (Holi)
6-3, 6-3: A. Belobraghe (Aus) bit M. Bok (Holi)
2-6, 6-0, 6-3: 1. Neumali (Res) bit C.
Begober 6-1, 6-2; R. Gilbert (Fr) bit S. Barron
(Jire) 6-4, 3-6, 7-6, J. Chaum, (Fr) bit M.
Stregda (Aus)sini 6-4, 6-4. T. Spirios bit C.
Auffray (Fr) 6-4, 6-4. Chaum bit Spirios bit C.
Auffray (Fr) 6-4, 6-4. Chaum bit Spirios 6-2;
6-2; Weinzer bit Sapprint 7-6, 6-1. Women:
Charles-Sinals: J. Ward bit C. Tastor 6-4, 3-1,
10; M. Lamarre (Fr) bit B. Auer (Aus)and 4-6, 6-1,
6-1, J. Steck (SAI) bit J. Choudhur, 6-1, 6-2,
Semi-finals: Lamarre bit Ward 6-1, 6-2,
Steck bit Ahl 6-2, 6-3

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CRICKET

Independence Cup New Zealand v Pakistan MOHALI (Pakistan wen toss). Pakistan ngad 73 runs from 10 1 avers to beat New

FA CARLING PREMIERSHIP: Blackburn Rovers 0 Middlestrough 0 Manchester United 0 Newceste United 0 PONTIN'S LEAGUE: First division. Notis County 3 Leocaster City 1 ICIS LEAGUE: Guardash Insurance Cuty Final: Bovehem Wood 1 Brantines 0 (aeti. WINSTONLEAD NENT LEAGUE: First division: Horiz Bay 1 Woodrigh I, Thamesmead 3 Girectisch 6 NORTH WEST COUNTIES LEAGUE: First division: Holice Old Boys 3 Vaunteil GM 4. UHLSPORT UNITED COUNTIES LEAGUE: First division: Holice Old Boys 3 Vaunteil GM 4. UHLSPORT UNITED COUNTIES LEAGUE. OHLE Prémier division: Nortrempion Sponcer 4 St Noots 4 WORLD CUP: Ausen zono: Qualifying group five: Yernen 0 Uzbekistan 1 (al Sanau), Group sevan: Kunzal 2 Lebenon 0 (in Kunzal Culy) DUTCH CUP: Final: Roda JC Kertyade 4 SC Heerensen 2. SC Hegrenveen 2. ITALIAN CUP: Final, first leg: Napoli 1 Vicenza 0.
COPA LIBERTADORES: Second round, second leg: Visiez Sarsield (Arg.) 0 Sporting Cristal (Peru) 1 (Sporting win 1-0 on agg)



RACING 44-45

Strong British presence in French classics

CRICKET 46-47

Reports and scores from all the first-class matches



SATURDAY MAY 10 1997

England turn to familiar figure in search of inspiration through busy summer

Hoddle gives Gascoigne last chance



PAUL GASCOIGNE, England's enfant terrible, was welcomed back into the international fold yesterday. Glenn Hoddle, the England coach, included Gascoigne in his initial 27-strong squad for the games against South Africa, Poland, Italy, France and Brazil this summer. Though Hoddle astutely avoided confronting the issue head-on, the five-match series is almost certainly the Rangers midfield player's final

chance to prove his worth.

Gascoigne appears to have little in his favour. He is 30 later this month, has not played a full game since January because of injury and is still undergoing counselling after the breakdown of his brief, tempestu-ous marriage. Whether he is ready to return, mentally or physically, is open to the widest of debates.

Yet such was England's lack of consistent creativity in their 2-0 win against Georgia at Wembley last

qualifying tie, that Hoddle has again turned to his ageing problem child. Tortured soul he may be, an enigma of bewildering proportions, but if one more ounce of inspiration can be squeezed from his often portly frame. Hoddle wants it.

Perhaps not so much in the Africa at Old Trafford on May 24, or even in the games against France. Italy and Brazil in the Tournoi de France next month. Though Gasigne will probably play in several of them, as part of his international rehabilitation, they are fixtures more for learning than doing. It is against Poland in Chorzow

on May 31, when England resume their World Cup campaign, that the Gascoigne of old will be needed. Victory is paramount if England are successfully to continue their pursuit of Italy, the group two leaders, and Hoddle must decide if the risk is

"A lot of outside factors have clouded Paul's life, but, more than anything else, he has to start loving the game of football again," Hoddle said. "He loved the game when he was in his heyday and that's what he's got to get back. But it has to be long-term. A little honeymoon period is no good, it has to be over the

next few years."
Hoddle, in his heyday, was a sight to behold, a player of bewitching ability. As a coach, gradually ascending a steep learning curve, he the sidestep and the shimmy. Verbally, not tactically. "Anyway, was it Gascoigne's last chance?" he was eventually asked. "It is a chance for Paul to focus in on things," he

replied, with a wry smile.

He exhibited equal diplomatic aplomb when questioned on the inclusion of six Manchester United players in his squad, which will be whittled down to 22, plus an extra goalkeeper, for the four-cornered competition in France. Paul Scholes, 22, the United forward, is the only uncapped member in the party. The fact that Alex Ferguson, the

United manager, said recently that

period" for his players appeared to have escaped Hoddle. "I have not spoken to Alex," he said. "He has been concerned with the job of winning the championship."

Hoddle gently guided the conversation towards the merits of

games for United this season. "We have had a close look at him and he has a good goalscoring record for the amount of games he's played," he said. "It will be a good opportunity for him to be around so many senior international players."

The discussion, inevitably, was

steered back to Ferguson. Would the country's most successful club manager withdraw his sextet from the trip to France? Was Hoddle actually daring him to do so by including so many of his players? Club versus country . . . same old story.

Hoddle, again, dealt deftly with the potential powder keg. Another shimmy, another sidestep, "I've got picked the phone up and said that he didn't want X, Y or Z to play." he said. "I've chatted with the players and they want to be there.

They'll become better players by playing in the tournament and, after all, we are playing France, Italy and Brazil. It's not as if we're playing some of the lesser nations. Ferguson did not call Hoddle and Hoddle did not call Ferguson. The perfect working relationship.

perhaps.
Only once was Hoddle lost for words, albeit temporarily, when a Polish visitor asked: You have gone on record as saying that if Ryan Giggs were English, Gazza would be history. Is that true?" The answer was lost amid raucous laughter. though its pertinence remained. Gascoigne: part of England's future

Premiership Guide, page 50 Oliver Holt, page 51

Westwood sets heady pace for new generation

By JOHN HOPKINS, GOLF CORRESPONDENT

WHEN you are able to hit the ball 25 or 30 yards farther than Ian Woosnam, long and difficult golf courses do not intimidate you. If, in addition, Woosnam talks enviously about your putting and glowingly about your ability to strike a ball, to shape a shot according to the terrain and conditions, then you have every reason to puff your chest

Lee Westwood is the man in question. Westwood increasingly resembles a golfer of mature into one of worldclass. Victories in Europe, Japan and Malaysia since August last year and a solid 24th-place finish in his first Masters last month suggest that Westwood, 24, could be the standard-bearer of the generation that follows Colin Montgomerie, 33, and José Maria Olazábal, 31.

Woosnam's praise for Westwood came in the Benson and Hedges International at The Oxfordshire yesterday. when they played together for the second successive day. The two of them are on six under par. Woosnam after a 68. Westwood a 69. This puts them three strokes behind Greg Turner, the leader. whose rounds of 67 and 68 have been outstanding, given that he played through bad weather on Thursday morning and again yesterday afternoon. Turner is one stroke ahead of Ross McFarlane. Retief Goosen and Bernhard Langer.

Eduardo Romero set a course record of 65 to jump to six under par. "Lee can be 40 yards past

me," Woosnam said. "He hits it miles. If he keeps playing like this, he is going to be a star. Well, he is a star. I'd like to see him on the Ryder Cup team. He's a good player. He's got the length, he's a good putter. All his game is good at the moment. He has improved a lot since I played with him last, 18 months ago. He has got a bit more confidence, he's young and playing well. What worries would he have? He's making money, why should he have anything to worry

As a boy, Westwood was kept in his place by his father. a maths reacher. "He gives me reality checks," Westwood said. "I didn't like school and said I wasn't going to stay on. My Dad said if I got five O levels, I could leave. I got eight and he made me go back and

resit the other two." With a father who enforced such a firm hand of caution, it not surprising that Concorde to the US Open next month, appears well able to keep his feet on the ground. He received Woosnam's acclaim with gratitude and reality. Of course you like to receive praise from your fellow pros," Westwood said. matter-of-factly. "Their word means more than anyone else because they've been there.

As striking as Westwood's

SECOND ROUND

LEADING SCORES, 135, G Turner (NC) 67 68 136, R Goosen (SA) 69, 67 R McFarland 70, 66, B Langer (Ger) 70, 66 137: D Clarke 69 68 138: P Sjoland (Swel

recent success and his appetite for golf - his maiden tournament victory came in his eighteenth successive event is his confidence. It takes some nerve to do to Jack Nicklaus what Westwood is said to have Augusta. Nicklaus started badly on his way to a 78 and, after a few holes, Westwood, who would go round in 70, went over to the great man and said: "You'll be all right."

The secret of Westwood's big hitting is that he uses a loft on it. With this, he clubs the ball an average of 280 or 290 vards from the tee. On the 16th, where Woosnam needed a three-iron to reach the green, Westwood was so much longer from the tee that he needed only a six-iron. "We both putted like chumps," Westwood said, "but a 69 was the worst it could have been."

Nothing is surprising about Severiano Ballesteros, not even that the man who has played four rounds only once in seven events this year has got to three under par after a 69. He played 18 holes without a bogey. This was less of an achievement than on the first day, because the wind had dropped, but Ballesteros has been so bad that any progress. even at a snail's pace, could be considered an improvement. His Europe team in the

Ryder Cup, meanwhile, begins to look more and more realistic. Langer's 66 took him to eight under par. He is sixth in the Ryder Cup points table, one place behind Darren Clarke, but one stroke ahead of him in the tournament. Clarke, seven under par, dropped shots at the 17th and 18th and his dinner last night would not have tasted so sweet after that.

☐ Jack Nicklaus may not play at the Open Championship at Royal Troon in July. "I have entered the British Open, but I am not totally sure about playing, probably not." he said yesterday. "My game is not in very good shape and unless I do well in the US Open I probably won't be coming." Nicklaus has won the Open three times in his list of 18 major titles and played the full four rounds at Royal Lytham last year.



Rogers to challenge & Brittle for key job

By DAVID HANDS

THE scene is set for another eadership contest among the embittered ranks of the Rugby Football Union (RFU). Cliff Brittle, who has complained that elements within the union have obstructed him since his election as chairman of the executive committee in January 1996, will be opposed as chairman of the new board of manage ment by Bob Rogers.

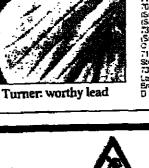
Rogers, widely praised for his handling of the second RFU extraordinary meeting in Birmingham 15 months ago, received the blessing of the committee meeting yesterday. He will be the official nomination for the post at the annual meeting on July 11 when the union membership will vote either for him or for Brittle, who has been nominated by the Orrell and Hinckley clubs.

The internal disputes of the last 18 months, centering on Brittle's on-going disagree-ments with Tony Hallett, the RFU secretary, have severely affected the working of the union. The latest allege improper conduct by RFU officers, who have been accused of misleading the annual meeting last year over details of the television agreement with BSkyB. the satellite broadcasting company part-owned by News International, owners of The Times.

Those allegations, and the leaks which led to them, have been the subject of an RFU inquiry, but the meeting yesterday agreed to an indepen-dent judicial review that will be chaired by a Crown Court

Final flourish, page 49

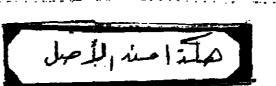




Until July, before you fly you've got to crawl.

Montgomerie follows the flight of the ball from the 2nd fairway on his way to a 71 at The Oxfordshire yesterday

At the moment the M4 is littered with roadworks, making the traffic to Heathrow even worse than before So if you're going to Paris or Brusseis, do yourseif a favour and take the Euroster from Waterloo.



in Monday's Times, a 12-page guide to the Ashes series

0345 303030 or see an appointed travel

agent or railway station.



Free tickets for children to London's Planetarium reader offer - 13

eekena

Fay Weldon and her remarkable family saga Ginny Dougary .15



SATURDAY MAY 10 1997

A century has passed since Oscar Wilde's release from Reading Gaol. Peter Ackroyd recalls the final, broken years



Wilde with Lord Alfred Douglas, Naples; 1897: "He was no longer an artist. When he ceased to write, too, he lost any ability to dominate his own life. He sat in cheap cafes, and watched the people pass; he let the waters of the world close over his head"

scar Wilde, with some justification, proclaimed himself to be a lord of language; but there came a time when he was no longer master of his own life. He went from poetry to prose. He went from prose to drama. And then he went to prison. The burden of those two sad years is to be stead, he travelled to Dieppe found in that great dirge to fate, The Ballad of Reading Gaot. he ended, as he had begun, with poetry. But if each man kills the thing he loves, then surely Oscar Wilde may be accused of killing himself. He left that gaol on May 19, a century ago, only to enter the

prison of his own identity. His first days of freedom were gay enough. He spoke of Dante, and of his desire to spend six months with the Jesuits; this retreat would have

The killing of Oscar been more unhealthy than a spat at him. Like some panto-

prison cell and, fortunately, his mime harlequin, he was attacked by the clowns. pious request was denied. In-In these early days, he told under the nom de plume of André Gide, the French man of Sebastian Melmouth, named letters, that "my life is like a after that great outcast of work of art. An artist never Gothic fiction known as starts the same thing twice". Melmouth the Wanderer. In Yet he was not averse to fact, he did remain, to his repeating his old mistakes and, contemporaries, something of a within a few months of his release from prison, he had fictional monster. Even in France he was shunned by returned to Lord Alfred Doug-Sickert and cut by Beardsley. las ("Bosie"). He had been the He was insulted by restaurant cause of all Wilde's woe, and proprietors, and treated by his father. Lord Queensberry, passing English tourists as a began the fatal process of trial and imprisonment by publicly accusing Wilde of being a cross between Jack the Ripper and the Anti-Christ. They even

"somdomite" - by which no doubt he meant sodomite. Yet Douglas and Wilde were now reunited in their old circle of fire; he was considered by his friends to be "quite mad" in this but, as always, Wilde had a marvellous reply. "I quite agree that all men of genius are insane, but you forget that all

sane people are idiots." The two men moved to Naples, where they wrote sonnets and chased boys. But they could never have remained together for long; it was part of the symmetry of Wilde's fate that he needed "Bosie" when the younger man no longer

needed him. His sonnets were

not enough.
The plight of Wilde's wife, Constance, has often been forgotten amid the splendour of his folly; she had been betrayed and humiliated by her husband, she had fled to Genoa with their two children in order to escape the stain of the ashamed to seek it. His converscandal hovering about her sation was prodigal and marhouse. But she never abandoned him or, indeed, cease to love him; she provided him with an allowance which, of

course, he squandered. Constance her husband nevdied in April 1898 after an operation on her spine, but there is no doubt that Wilde also helped to wield the knife. After returning from Naples

to Paris, the city he had adopted as his own, by degrees Wilde became a solitary exile. He was endlessly susceptible to slights, eager for company but too vellous to the end, and so great was his gift that he did not care upon whom he bestowed it. He spoke to waiters and prostitutes, conjuring up words and images as dazzling as anything er met after his release; she he had contrived in the drawing rooms of London. Yet he

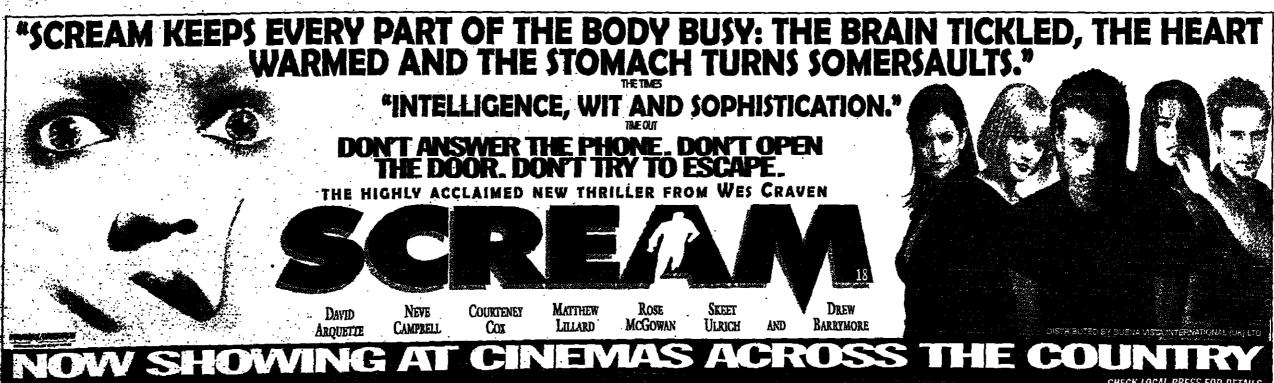
could no longer write; whether out of fear, or indolence, he never chose to repeat his old success. He proclaimed that he had lost "joy" in writing, but it would also be true to say that he had lost his genius. He was free in the sense that his former triumphs had been forgotten. but he was no longer an artist. When he ceased to write, too, he lost any ability to dominate his own life. He sat in cheap cafés. and watched the people pass: he let the waters of the world close over his head.

Teg on stelling, ar will see of ar No sund;

For a while he deserted the boulevards of Paris to travel south and spend three months with the notorious publisher and writer Frank Harris near Cannes, at Harris's own urgent invitation: it was a case of the unspeakable pursuing the

Continued on page 2

SHOPPING 25 GARDENING 46 PROPERTY 7-10 COUNTRY LIFE 11 FEATURES



مكذا من الاصل

verybody has a weakness. With many people it is drink, or food, or clothes. With Tony Blair it seems to be ties: with his wife, shoes: with his children. Manchester United duvers. My own weakness is for neither ties nor shoes nor bedding. in all of which I have tastes most accurately described by the brutal word "bogstandard". My weak-ness is for anything half-aimed at my desire for intellectual selfimprovement. I am actually not stupid. But in my quest to become less not-stupid, I behave like a fool. Falling for the idea that merely to possess something is immediately to gain the benefits it can potentialbestow is the most basic ly bestow is me shopping error going.

As soon as I graduated in 1989. decided for some reason that I ought to take an A level in Mathematics. This was bizarre. I already had three A levels and I had just come into possession of a degree. I choose my words carefully, and partly because I felt I had done nothing really to earn that qualification, I decided I needed another one. I managed to convince myself that my education would not be complete until I had become more numerate. So I paid £200 to enrol at the Rapid Results Correspondence College. A while later, a large packet came in the post. The packet contained half a dozen beige-coloured exercise books full of sums.

Confidently, arrogantly, pencils sharpened, I opened the first exercise book, I had assumed I might run into trouble on about book five - and yet these sums on

SERIOUS SHOPPING

SELF-IMPROVEMENT

page one of book one seemed very difficult indeed. Difficult as in impossible. I checked the cover to make sure it was book one. It was. After about three minutes of staring at these opening sums, I decided to try again later, when I was in a better frame of mind. I closed the book, never, inevita-

bly, to reopen it.

That book, and the others, remained in a corner of the repulsive bedsit I then lived in for a year. When I moved to a flat, they came too. When I moved again, five years later, I threw them out. I still have little facility for mathematics beyond mental arithmetic, at which I am quite



ROBERT CRAMPTON

good. My quite good mental arithmetic in this case tells me that I wasted £200.

Around the same time, 1989, I decided to learn Spanish. I bought

a set of Linguaphone tapes, again for about E200. I cannot remember now where all these £200s were coming from - I had no income worth the name. I must have gone into debt. Tragic really, to run up debts on sums you can't do and tapes you can't understand. I would have been better off buying some nice ties, or shoes, though I would have drawn the line at a Manchester United duvet.

The equivalent for me now, calculating inflation and increased earnings, would be to spend about £2,000 on something that I then put in a corner of the room to accumulate dust - an idea which makes me shudder. But such was

my commitment to turning myself into renaissance man. I was also, ! am sure, subconsciously trying to prolong my student existence and avoid earning a living - paradoxically by spending the money that I had deferred earning.

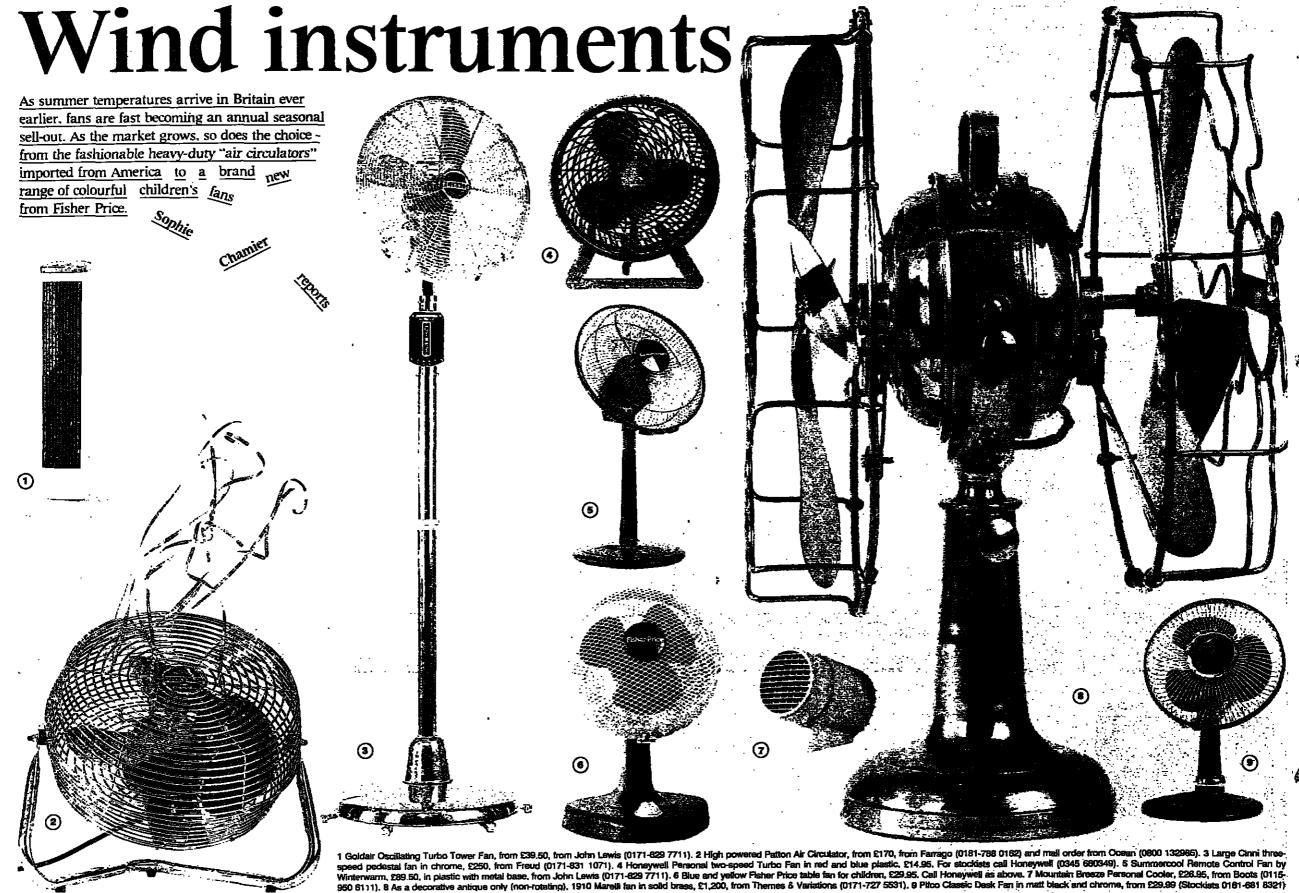
I still have the tapes in my cassette collection, along with the Buzzocks and Stiff Little Fingers and all the other stuff I don't play. There are seven Spanish tapes six hardline and one soft introductory one. Sometimes I think, even now, before a long car or train journey, or when I am at a loose end in the evening. I should pop on that Spanish Linguaphone tape. 1 never do. I listened to the first five minutes of the first side of the supposedly easy tape, once, in the spring of 1990. I cannot remember one word of it. I wonder now what

the Spanish is for "another stupen-

dous waste of money". What else? Yes, like Garry Kasparov, I too play chess against a computer. Unlike him, I can barely operate the program, let alone beat it. My computer came in, again, at close on another 5200.

Sometimes. I do succeed in turning the computer on - and it then beats me in about 20 moves at level one (there are eight). When it beats me, the computer says. in its robotic voice "Why. Are. You. Still. So. Crap?" Humiliating to have a machine talk to you like that, especially if there are other people around to overhear. But it serves to spur me on to greater efforts, as I clamber about in the foothills, searching for that shopping shortcut to the intellectual heights.

PHOTOGRAPHS BY DES JENSON





Attempts to turn Wilde into 'Saint Oscar' are ridiculous

six separate occasions. Fortified in spirit, as well as by spirit, he returned to Paris for the last time. He found cheap lodgings in the Hotel d'Alsace, complete with a bookcase and ugly iron bed as well as the famous wallpaper ("My wallpaper and I are fighting a duel to the death. One or the other of us has to go). He breakfasted at nine on a roll and coffee; he managed some light reading. followed by a not so light had enough of life; once he had exhausted it, and now it lunch of mutton and two hardboiled eggs. Then he began his promenade among the boulevards and the boys. His life had become a play, but with

only one actor. There is the story told by the opera singer Dame Nellie Melba. She was walking in Paris one morning when a man accosted her. "Madame Melba, you don't know who I am. They had in fact met several times, in the winecoloured days of his glory when he had dubbed her "Queen of Song". Then he went on, "I am Oscar Wilde, and I am going to do a terrible thing. I am going to ask you

for money." One old acquaintance passed him in a cab without immediately recognising him. and recalled that, "the sudden pain in Wilde's eyes was unforgettable". A young American blushed when he sat near him in a restaurant: Wilde rose to his feet, saying: "I remove the embarrassment."

He was now almost entirely alone. The man who had been the centre of a great social and cultural world found himself invisible. He was no longer surrounded by applause, but by silence. He had left part of his glory in his prison cell; you might say that he had become a flaneur and vagabond, not by temperament, but from conviction. By the autumn of 1900 he had a forced reconciliation with his wallpaper, when he was confined to his bed. The cause of his illness. known to the wise as encaphalitic meningitis, is not known. One of his more recent biographers, Richard Ellmann, has Could Wilde have accomsuggested that it was syphilitic in origin. It is possible but no means certain. It is more likely

was taking his revenge. In any event he retained his wit to the end, principally by refusing to obey his doctor's orders. He drank champagne and took opium, with liberal doses of chloral. Of course, he performed the principal function of an invalid by cheering up his visitors, but there were times when he was also amused. He told one of his closest friends, Reginald Turner, that, "I dreamt I was supping with the dead". Turner replied. "My dear Oscar, you were probably the

that he died simply because he

life and soul of the party." They became hysterical with laughter. nly hours before his death Wilde was baptised into the Roman Catholic Church, on the perfeetly sensible ground that the Anglican Church was reserved for the respectable.

Then, on a cold afternoon at the end of November, he died. A few days later he was taken to an obscure grave, with the small group of mourners remembering, perhaps, lines from The Importance of Being Earnest: "He seems to

have expressed a desire to be

buried in Paris."/ "In Paris! I

fear that hardly points to any

very serious state of mind at

Nine years later Wilde's body was removed to the cemetery of Père Lachaise. where Eostein's famous monument has over the years been covered with the kisses and affectionate greetings of the world.

plished more during his three years of wandering? It is very doubtful. He had already announced that his life could not be "patched up" and, indeed, he seems to have taken a certain pleasure in fulfilling an unhappy destiny. He had become both criminal and martyr and, therefore, the very model of a modern artist; deliberately or not, he turned his life into a form of allegory. It is almost as if he had anticipated the extent of his fame, and was already living for the sake of posterity.

Now he has been rehabilitated as an artist and as a man. Those who know only his plays, however, know only half of his genius; his prose works, in particular his fairy stories and critical essays, represent some of the finest work of the 19th century.

Wilde mastered every literary form. He brought comedy back to the English stage. primarily by mocking the absurdities of the English. He invented the prose poem for a modern audience, and transformed the practice of literary criticism. He also proclaimed a novel stance in doing so; he was always struck by the value of appearances, and so created

a theory of the artist as performer and public figure. He was in that sense a pioneer of the "modern movement" in art and letters, although he might not have enjoyed the

like a painful duty. There may be the vaguest of reasons also to claim him for the cause of Irish nationalism. although he did once tell Yeats that the Irish were a race of .. brilliant failures.

ilde's affection for his native land really V V only began after he had left it, but there is no doubt that in his art and life he was an Irishman consciously defying the standards of an alien race. It is difficult for any man of genius to be a fervent nationalist, however, and patriotism of that kind is fatal to any sense of humour.

It is equally unlikely that he would ever have wished to become a gay icon. He never represented anyone, or anything, other than himself. His genius lay in his uniqueness.

might even have derived great pleasure from posing as a heterosexual; as long as he remained artificial, he was content. The attempt to transform him into "Saint Oscar" is, of course ridiculous; it courts what he himself called "the supreme vice of shallowness",

and his strength in his individ-

uality. In this liberated age, he

and he can be said to have warned his 20th-century admirers with the remark that, cheap editions of great men are absolutely detestable". As for the recent attempts to persuade the Home Office to "pardon" Wilde, it is the Home Office itself which needs for giveness for imprisoning him in the first place. It is important, in the end, to avoid burdening him with the

sexual freedoms and moral sensitivities of the late 20th century. He was an enemy of earnestness in all its forms and, properly, should be given the last word:

"Art is the only serious thing in the world. And the artist is the only person who is never



Be a good sport MAIN PICTURE: Navy nylon zip jacket, £295; white stretch sleeveless top, £90, Polo Sport by Ralph Lauren, 143 New Bond Street, W1; Harrods, SW1; Selfridges, W1 (0171-491 4967) FAR LEFT: Orange nylon jacket, £122, Oilly, (0171-637 4142) Green cotton hooded jacket, £44.99, Pepe, branche: nationwide (0171-836 8666) Three stripe V-neck top, £49 99, Replay, (0171-267 5632). Indigo patch pocket jeans, £60, Diesel, (0171-833 2255).

Red patent flip-flops, £19 99. Converse LEFT: White fine knit zip front top. £62.99, Replay, as before. Blue stripe T-shirt, £12.99, River Island, branches nationwide (0181-998 8822). Nylon blue and white airtex stripe skirt, £45, Red or Dead (0114-273 7827).



Top: Pink stripe leather rucksack, £18, Red or Dead (0171-235 5000). Centre: Blue patent leather bag, £23 99, Pepe, as before Bottom: Green leather bag, £79, Calvin Klein, as before ger-or-swoon. sniggers nor may be due to

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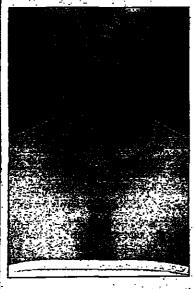
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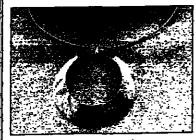
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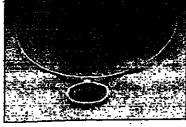
FINE wire collars are the torque of the town this summer. They emphasise a sexy neckline and are perfect worn with this season's strapless fashions. H.B.



Bronze bead choker by Vivian Walsh, £69.95, Liberty, Regent Street, W1 (00 353 167 07950)



Gold circle pendant choker, £10, House Of Freser, branches nationwide (0171-963 2236)



Silver choker, £2.99, River Island, 124-126 Kensington High Street, W8 (0181-998 8822)

portswear influences on fashion have been with us since the Fifties. Originally an American trend, clothes such as baseball jackets, sneakers and high school sweatshirts came off the sports field and into the street to become the ultimate in casual clothing. Labels such as Adidas and

Nike, once specifically for the sportsman, have become must-have brands for young fashion pundits since the introduction of fashion sportswear lines. Also proving to be the labels to wear are recognised designer names such as Ralph Lauren Polo, DKNY and Calvin Klein, who are all pushing their own "sports" ranges. Other labels such as Diesel and Replay have joined this trend and offer only "sportswear" that is pure fashion, worn by a crowed who would not dream by a crowd who would not dream of spoiling these clothes for sport.

Since the fitness boom in the Eighties, trends in sportswear have moved quickly, resulting in better quality fabrics as well as high-tech graphics and "go faster" styling with stripes and flashed logos. Nylon may be on the way

out in couture but in this genre it is still acceptable along with Lycra and synthetics. Shell suits are a definite no-no but tight-fitting T-shirts, bold coloured blousons

and fleeces all work well. For your feet, the original sneaker has come a long way since the Fifties. High-tech, stateof the art trainers have brought a new dimension to sports footwear.

There are four looks to choose from: the classic white tennis shoe, such as the Green Flash from Dunlop; cushion-soled ultra-graphic multi-use trainers (Nike, Adidas and Diesel are current favourites); platform and wedge fashion trainers; and the new summer-cool slip-on mules and

flip-flop thongs.

The essential accessory is a sports bag — but in a bright colour, not black or white — with subtle flashed sports motifs on rucksacks, shoulder-bags and small holdalls.

Photographs by Richard Burns. Hair and make-up by Saily Kvalheim for Jo Hansford (0171-495 7774). Styling by Amandip Uppal



ABOVE: Chanel trainers, £315, Chanel, 26 Old Bond Street, W1 (0171-235 6631) RIGHT: Top: white platform trainers, £29.99, Faith, branches nationwide (0800 289297). Centre: Navy and white star trainers, £39.99, Converse, Office, 57 Neal Street, WC2 (0181-838 4447). Bottom: Classic white trainers, £85, Polo Sport by Ralph Lauren, as before





The same of the sa

Our May Issue's Full Of Delicious Tips.

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mouth-watering recipes in our May issue. your favourite food programmes.

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Normandy dishes and irresistible golden- Taste of the Times; we've the start of topped gratins are just some of over 80 MasterChef 1997; and we've a guide to

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Good Food: Neves Go Without It. Harriott's collectable cook cards.

ا حكدا من الاصل

Stephen Anderton on the new biological accelerators that can halve the time it takes to make compost

Meet the ultimate rotter

dered what exactly goes on in a compost heap, all that luscious collapse and decay? You may not want to think about it, but others make it their commercial business to know what rots what. And from this high-tech approach to rot come the new compost accelerators, which can halve the time it takes us to produce well-roned garden compost.

The traditional way to speed up composting was to add nitrogen, cheaply available in the form of sulphate of ammonia. sprinkled between the layers. Cheapest of all was peeing on it after News at Ten. in the last perambulation before locking up for the night. Well why not? It's no worse than cultivating great steaming heaps of horse manure.

A little lime helped too, to stop things becoming too acidic for the bacteria to do their work. A thin (and I mean thin) sprinkling of soil between

There are

no killer

bugs here

ready to

take over

the world'

layers was also thought to help. because it added to the general volume of bacteria present. though they were mostly those which live at soil temperature, rather than the 50C-60C desirable at the epicentre of a rampant compost heap.

The product Garotta has been around for years, an accelerant in powder form

developed in the lime-andnitrogen tradition, for sprinkling on to the growing heap. And, perhaps, the best accelerant of all has always been turning the heap - bringing the cooler, drier edges into the centre and introducing them to the bacterial frenzy at the core, like Christians to the lions. Bless them, those little bacteria do like their oxygen to thrive and rot things down. Deprive them of that, and the decay becomes anaerobic, a hundred times slower, and distinctly smelly.

In the past three years a new kind of compost accelerator has appeared, which works biologically. Instead of waiting for the microbes in a compost heap to multiply and begin the work of rotting the contents, you can now water on a latent cocktail of the most useful microbes. Biotal, the clippings. This contains mi-

manufactures the accelerants. claims that there are not less than 50 million of the little darlings in every 10ml of concentrate. So its 500ml bottle contains ... well you can work it out.

Microbes, which cause decay of vegetable matter (cellulose), are bottled at the spore stage and kept dormant by being marketed in an aqueous solution so purified that they can receive no nutrition whatsoever. But release them into a compost heap and bingo, off they go.

Single-cell microbes consume cellulose by releasing enzymes, tiny molecules, which "unlock" the structure of the cellulose and break it down into absorbable sugars. So, to speed up the onset of microbial feeding and proliferation, the Biotal accelerators contain these enzymes in solution, as well as the dormant microbes which produce them. Then, even before the

microbes break dormancy, the enzymes are putting the meal on, and chopping up some supper. When the mi-

crobes wake up, after about 90 minutes in the heap. they have a hearty meal and get to work. Thereafter they can double in numbers every 20

minutes, creating a lot of heat. And every 10C increase in temperature roughly doubles microbial activity. Who'd be a lettuce leaf in a compost heap? In a sense, there is nothing

new about these accelerators. They are simply a massive local injection of the best natural decaying agents. There are no killer bugs here ready to take over the world, iust common ones selectively applied. They are all saprophytic microbes, which means they live solely on dead material. There is no risk to live plants. When the heap is worked out, they die in the cooler temperatures of the soil. The enzymes, whose role as a catalyst is over, remain harm-

less as before. Biotal makes three kinds of accelerator, and there are good lessons to be learnt from their differences. One is for grass



Stephen Anderton and his prized compost heap, which was produced with a "water on" concoction of living microbes

crobes which work at very high temperatures induced by neat grass clippings, which are high in nitrogen. There is no need ever to add nitrogen to composted grass clippings.

general purpose accelerator. chosen to have a wide range of enzyme activity to break down all kinds of vegetable waste at slightly cooler temperatures.

The third type is for leaves. and is not bacterially based. The woodier rissues of plants contain lignin, which microbes do not break down. On the other hand, lignin can be digested by compounds found in the gut of termites, and by certain white rot fungi, such as the bracket fungi which sometimes attack our garden trees.

iotal's leaf composter is a fungus-based accelerator, and works at lower temperatures. Such fungi hate-living with high nitrogen levels, and the message here is to keep nitrogen away from leaf-only heaps, with or without Biotal. For the same reason, leaves collected with a lawnmower and mixed with grass clippings will heat up and suppress the fungal activity which would lead fastest to leafmould. The leaf-and-grass mixture needs to be mixed into a hotter compost heap. But, of course, when the leaves have been shredded by a mower, they not faster in a compost heap, because the enzymes do not have to penetrate the hard

surface of the leaf. This year, for those who prefer a granular compost accelerator, J. Arthur Bowers, which makes Garotta, has joined forces with Biotal to make New Biological Garotta. It contains all the goodies that were in Garotta, plus the bugs and the enzymes. It certainly

looks as if the future of compost acceleration is going to be biological. But however you compost, with or without accelerators, for optimum speed of decay you must always turn it regularly, to get some oxygen in there.

Last season I tried Biotal

Compost Maker for Grass in my Green Joanna compost bin and, astonishingly, it are every last scrap of waste this house-hold could produce, including all the lawn clingings of drought season. It just never seemed to get full up.

£2.19 for a one kilo pack, £7.28 for six kilos. The three Biotal Compost Makers cost £6.49 for 500ml and are available from

GARDEN ANSWERS

STEPHEN ANDERTON replies to readers' letters

I have problems growing primulae growing primulas and polyanthus on my balcony, although they grow well enough in the garden. After autumn planting they survive the winter then will and rot off at the neck. Are they too dry, or too wet? — Dr T. Coupland, Sutton Coldfield, West Midlands.

A brown core disease, Phytophthora primulae, which is a soil-borne disease. Slice open a root and look for the brown core to confirm. A take it there are no signs of vine weevil?) Empty your tubs of soil and dead plants and put them ... well, not on the compost

This sounds like

heap and not in the garden. unless it is big and you have orimula-free places. Steriise or replace the tubs and start again with fresh soil.

This spring I have lost three lavateras. I did prune them all fairly wonder if this killed them. I noted that all the stems are hollow. Should I have pruned earlier or later. or less heavily? — J. Booth, Tiverton, Devon.

A Hard pruning of lavateras is best left until the spring. But some times, especially in a windy garden, it pays to shorten the long wands of growth by lain or so to reduce wind resistance and rocking. But do not cut into very old wood at that time. Given a milder climate lavateras choose to stay in some leaf through winter, and so severe pruning at a time when they cannot regrow must leave them weakened. through lack of chlorophyll. with which to make energy in winter. Lavateras are rarely long-lived; five to six years is a good useful life.

For several years I have used pine cones to make a mulch to suppress weeds in my small front garden. The soil is heavy clay. The cones may be successful but the gardener disapproves. What do you think? - Miss M.R. Dawson, London SW20.

My shouldn't pine comes be just as good as-dark muich? They ar certainly more ornamental. permit water to pass through when it rains and break down only very slowly, which is what is required of a water-retaining, weedexcluding mulch. If that is

why you mulch, then fine. If, on the other hand, you want to improve the soil it would be more useful to add a mulch of old compost something with some nutritional value, to help break up the clay. You might also want to dig compost into the top layer of soil to make the cultivation of smaller delicate plants easier, in a

garden with a lot of regular lifting and replanting going on, mulches get in the way, and however careful you are you find yourself with soil and weed seeds on top of the mulch. Inevitably you then have to dig it in and reapply a fresh mulch. But under a permanent planting of, say, hybrid tea roses, well, a thick layer of pine cones might be perfect.

Pigeons are wrecking the planting in containers on my shady balcony. They have uprooted Vinca minor about six times, scattering soil their revenge for me stopping them roosting. What can I do? — Mrs M.M. Humphries, London SEI.

There are a couple of There are a couple of things you might try. Your hand-watered containers, in shade, will offer a tempting place to look for moisture or grubs. If the problem continues, apply a thick gravel mulch and put chicken wire or plastic mesh over the plants until they are established. It may be just the buds that are tempting the pigeons.

Our beech hedge is 300 yards long and 8ft high. During summer it is infested with white beech aphids, making it sticky and unpleasant to cut. Is there a biologically friendly way of controlling these aphīds? — Mrs D. Cairns, Faversham, Kent.

A There is no biological control for aphids which will work outdoors. Recommended chemical controls are dimethoate, pirimphos-methyl or pirimcarb, applied when signs first appear in late spring. I have found that tar oil wash applied to the hedge in winter will bring regular infestations under control.

> Readers should write to: The Times, I Pennington Street, London El 9XN. We regret that it may not be possible to deal with every request Advice is offered without legal responsibility. The Times also regrets that any

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Cruising can grow on you Introducing The Times

gardening cruise to Madeira, the Canaries and Portugal

n a dry spring, and with the prospect of a dry summer, don't you long for a climate blessed with gende warmth and rains? An island somewhere? To a gardener, drought can be seriously distressing, and to this one the prospect of travelling with *The Times* Gardening Cruise in November, to Madeira, the Canaries and Portugal, is a pleasure

indeed, Stephen Anderton writes.

Madeira has an extraordinary climate.

At higher altitudes it is cool enough to grow daffodils, which need a period of winter cool to induce flowering, but it is also hot enough lower down the slopes to grow a vast range of exorics. Half close your eyes in the Blandy garden, Quinta do Palheiro, and you might be in Cornwall or west Cumbria.

Walls of camellias 20ft high flank the sides of drives, but next moment you are looking at South African "king" protea bushes flowering on the lawn, with blooms the size of small, rosy cabbages. Camellias grow hard and fast here, to the extent that you could prune them down with a chainsaw in old age, when they get rangy and top heavy.

Contrasts are everywhere: topiary in the English manner then, suddenly, the long-haired 6ft-tall dome of an Australian black boy". Agapanthus are roadside weeds, and passion flowers of various species make themselves at home inside species make themselves at home inside and outside gardens.
Gran Canaria and Tenerife are some-

thing else. They are totally unlike Britain, and I find them all the more exciting for that. In the Botanic Garden on Gran Canaria, fat cacti squat around like angry frogs. "Mother-in-law's chairs", the locals call them. Other more slender species writhe up against the sky, frilled with spines, as if the snake charmer had suddenly ceased to play. Who needs topiary when you have these.

The southern tip of Gran Canaria is rolling sand dunes, a chunk of the Sahara jutting out to sea. And just inland from here is Palmitos Park, an oasis of lush growth nestled in a moist gulley under barren hills. Here is the full gamut of architectural plants - agaves, aloes, prickly pears playing host to cochineal beetles — and all pulled together by vibrantly coloured climbers, such as the gaudy, orange pyrostegia "lire vine") and powder-blue Thunbergia grandiflora.



Exotic plants and fruit proliferate in the conservatory at Estufa Fria in Lisbon

And palms, of course. The Canary Island palm, Phoenix canariensis, is everywhere. But there are so many other varieties, and once you begin to get your eye in the differences are remarkable.

Some of the palms carry their leaves clasped around the upper part of the stem in a shining "crown shaft", making a complete change of colour and the trunk. And the texture half way up the trunk. And the flowers, when they come, appear at this transitional point, hanging in a ring of yellow like a beaded grass skirt.

In Lisbon, the great lath-covered shade house at Estufa Fria has pineapples, and the Swiss cheese plants scramble everywhere in full phallic fruit. But if nature triumphant is not your

royal palace of Queluz, in formal par-terres and in the princesses boating canal. lined with delicate hand-painted tiles showing many a nymph and shepherd at pastoral play.

Last year was my first cruise as a guest lecturer for The Times, and how it can grow on you. Visiting gardens is always a pleasure, but sailing off into the sunset afterwards beats hacking off around the M25 any day. On days at sea, if you can bear to leave the sundeck, Ashley Stephenson and Trailly. phenson and I will be giving talks on the island gardens and on gardening. I might also have some more of those songs up my sleeve about lawnmowers, politically correct gardens and, of course, gardening

bag, respite can be found at the nearby

cruises

The state of the s

W (III)

Keep it in the family

Scarlett, is familiar with acid house, hip-hop. techno and house, thanks to the family's courtyard garden, which is overlooked by 32 windows, four of them belonging to a recording studio. When Scarlett plays on the swing or in the sand pit, the music booms. But revenge loudspeakers are planned for this summer, when Miss Freud, the writer Richard (Four Weddings and a Funeral) Curtis, her partner, and Scarlett relax in the tightly planted walled

Once it was a detritus-filled yard of the Baptist chapel but, since Miss Freud converted it, it has become a haven from the busy. smelly west London street market

The garden is a family creation. Scarlett's interests dictate the wall decoration, while Mr Curtis's mother, Glynne Curtis, designed and built the garden from scratch three years ago. Scarlett's first word, tiger, is celebrated on one wall in a mural by Miss Freud's quasi-brother and artist Ashley Rye (unofficially adopted by Miss Freud's parents when he was "very young"), who adds an animal every time his niece expresses an interest

 hence the menagerie of pigs, pigeons, cats, a cow and giraffe. These are joined by topiary box chickens and birds.

Seven months after we moved in the garden looked like it had always been there," Miss Freud says. "Before there was nothing but concrete. Glynne put it together, fast. During the summer we have every meal in the garden. We don't entertain a lot but we have had barbecues out here."

Miss Freud, whose second baby is due next month, used to grow vegetables at her home in Oxfordshire before beginning the family.
"I haven't lifted a fork since I had my first baby," she says. "I think the same kind of nurturing and tenderness go into gardening as into bringing up children. They come from the same emotional source and so you swap one for the other throughout your life."

But Miss Freud's vegetable career was not an outstanding



One of the animal murals painted for Scarlett by Ashley Rye

garden responsibility is a long.

raised bed opposite the front door

to their chapel/house/studio in

which all the herbs grow: lavender.

basil. mint. rosemary. parsley, sorrel, sage, bay, dill ... although

these are used for cooking, this is a

skill Miss Freud will reveal little

about. "When Richard first met me

he said that I was the worst cook he

The plants in the rest of the

have never been good with

garden have to be Freud resistant.

flowers: they do not fire me up like

vegetables. I don't have green

fingers and regularly kill plants. I

then have to take them to my

mother so she can nurse them back

from the dead." Miss Freud says.

had ever come across."

success. Once, when she entered IS varieties in a local produce show, she came borrom in every class. including the one in which she was the only entrant. She was told that her sole entry parsnip simply wasn't up to show standard.

In the London garden. Miss Freud is responsible for the flooring, attractive vellow-grey Chinese slate tiles which cost considerably less than some of the reconstituted pavers now available. Paving is an unusual choice for a parent of a small child; most attempt grass in even the most dismal corner when children arrive, but in Miss Freud's words, her daughter has "never spilt blood".

Miss Freud's other area

member involved in the garden. Mrs Curtis mentions, without rancour, that her lovingly planted camellia had been killed off. She has since replaced it with an almost indestructible mallow.

Toverplant everything so that if something doesn't survive something else can take its place, meaning there are no bare patches. I plant fast-growing things like a passion flower alongside a wisteria, which will eventually take over, says Mrs Curis, who modestly describes her gardening qualifications as "learning by experience during 45 years of married life in Australia, the tropics and here".

The beds around the courtyard walls, and the multitude of pots doned around the terrace, are packed with roses, topiarised box, heathers. Clematis alpina. New Zealand flax (Phormium tenax). fuchsias, conifers and cyclamen, which have been chosen for similar qualities. Soil had to be imported from a garden centre.

ale flour tiles and white painted walls around the courtvard give a brighter feel to this garden than seems possible with the high. terraced houses that cluster so close. But, in the narrow enclosed corridor leading from the street, shade is inevitable all day, so Mrs Curtis has planted an almost Victorian-style fernery and stumpery. Various ferns curl their fonds above ivy, great pale evergreen-leaved bergenia and the tinyleaved mind-your-own-business which scrambles across a couple of picturesque decaying tree stumps.

The planting is complex to give structure and colour throughout the year — Miss Freud's only request to Mrs Curtis when they were planning the garden. Much of the planting is in pots, which can be moved about and replaced as needed, and all of it is interspersed with flares and candles, three of them sprouting out of an ivy

It is a rare garden that perfectly meets the needs of entertaining parents and toddler daughters. Artist Ashlev Rve can be contacted on

The Button That Could

HOMES & GARDENS

Emma Freud in the courtyard garden of her London home. "I have never been good with flowers"

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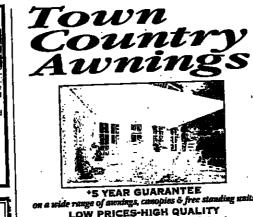
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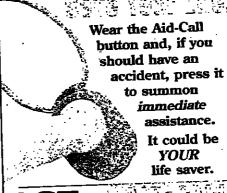
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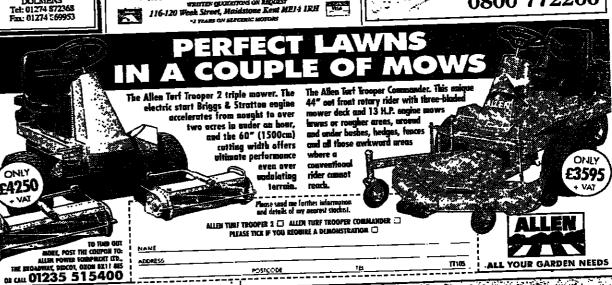


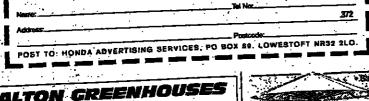
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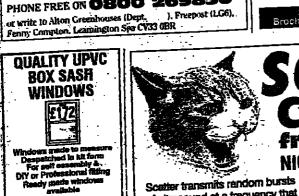




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Penshurst Place, near Tonbridge, Kent (01892 870307)

On B2176 from Tonbridge. Open daily to end Sept. then weekends in Oct, Ham-opm. E4. children E2.75

The marriage of house and garden is unforgettable at Penshurst, where you feel you are walking through history. The main garden front overlooks a sunken formal garden which has been there in some shape or form since Tudor times. Great vew hedges provide the most powerful links, and they also provide the framework for this impressively large garden, making for a series of interlinking enclosures and views. Whichever way you choose to go, you will be led by paths back and forth.

There are always areas of particular interest to admire whenever you visit. If not now, then in the next week or two when the long peony border that has become one of Penshurst's most renowned features will be in flower, while the majestic herbaceous borders that run across the garden near the centre are burgeoning into leaf and there is a selection of early flowers.

The presence of water has been subtly extended by the present owners, Lord and Lady De L'Isle, who have continued the considerable renewal carried out by his father. Not only is the level of maintenance now exemplary, but Penshurst has the atmosphere of somewhere that is going to be a joy to visitors for another 600 years.

■ Arduaine Garden, by Oban. Argyll (01852 200366)

On ASI6 between Oban and Lochgilphead. Open daily all year, 9.30am-sunset. E2.30, children EL50

Today and tomorrow Arduaine is open in aid of Scotland's Garden Scheme and it could hardly have

OPEN THIS WEEKEND

west coast of Scotland has a unique magic in May, with a freshness and light you find nowhere else in Britain. At Arduaine it brings a sparkle to the garden's renowned collections of ornamental trees and shrubs, begun by James Arthur Mackenzie and owing much to the work of the nurserymen Wright brothers from 1971 until 1991, when

they gave it to the National Trust. The Scottish pattern of conifer woodland and shelter belts, here mainly larch, protecting the introductions from the Himalayas is exemplified. The garden's highlight is the collection of rhododendrons, and the blue poppies (meconopsis) are not to be missed.

chosen a better time of year. The But my lasting picture is always the view from between hillside trees to the shimmering water beyond.

■ Hare Hill, Over Alderley, near Macclesfield, Cheshire (01625 828981)

Off B5087 between Prestbury and Alderley Edge. Open May 12 to June I, daily iOam-5.30pm. then Weds, Thurs, Sat. Sun and Bank Hol Mons to end Oct, ... 10am-5:30pm. E2.50.

Hare Hill is a place of fascination. an enormous walled garden built in the early 19th century surrounded by a woodland garden. Visit now to see the banks of rhododen-

WEEKEND TIPS

Prune bush peaches of dead wood and crossing branches, to encourage an open centre.

Sow pumpkins under glass in individual 3in pots. Ornamental grasses and bamboos should be divided or

transplanted as growth starts. Sow seeds of bjennials (sweet williams, canterbury bells and waliflowers), to be grown on in summer and transferred to

flowering position in autumn. ■ After flowering, reduce tangled growth on Clematis cannot be allowed free rein.

■ Watch for outbreaks of aphids on the new shoots or roses. If natural predators do not wipe them out, be prepared to spray.

Trim back any straggly winter flowering heathers after the last flowers have faded.

■ Liquid-feed potted lilies with

drons and azaleas planted in the wood by its last owner. Colonel Charles Brocklehurst, who gave the property to the National Trust.

مكنامة الاصل

It is a marvellous place to walk, with a blend of native woodland and the enriching colours of the more recently added flowering shrubs and trees. A sense of detachment is increased when you come upon the walled garden with climbers and wall plants decorating the brickwork and, at one end, an elegant white trellis pergola. Inside there is only lawn, giving an openness that is in contrast to the woodland paths and glades.

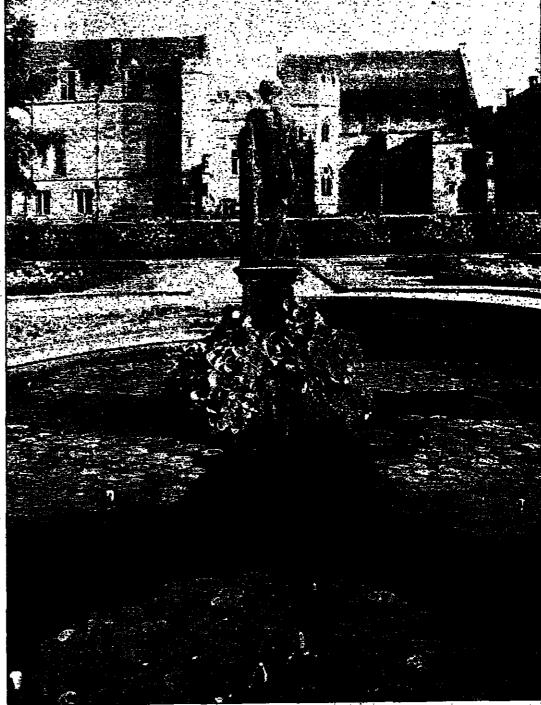
■ Copt Howe, Chanel Stile. Great Langdale, Cumbria (01539 437685)

5m west of Ambleside via B5343 to Chapel Stile. Open Sats, Suns and Bank Hol Mons until end May, noon-5pm. or by appointment. £2, OAPs £1.50, children free

This is a garden for the visitor with a catholic taste in plants or, conversely, a specialist, because such is the range and quantity for a two-acre site that you are not likely to be disappointed.

The reliably damp Lake District climate encourages lush growth and, as you would expect on the sloping hillside, the garden is arranged informally with paths leading between banks of trees and flowering shrubs, or to the lawn which is a focal point with views to the Langdale Fells.

The leaves of acers are a superb feature at this time of year, as are the contrasting small-scale alpines and dwarf conifers that fill an enormous array of troughs. It is obviously a personal garden, the work of the owner Professor Hazeldine, which adds to the visitor's sense of enjoyment.



The main garden front at Penshurst Place, Kent overlooks a sunken formal garden from Tudor times

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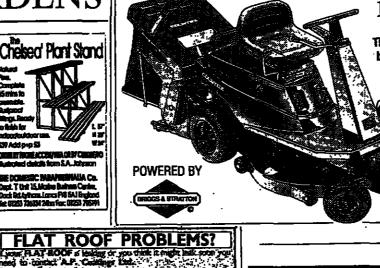
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TERENCE CUNEO

The Final Catalogue



Let your hair down in the tower

Hidden away in the Surrey commuter-belt is a fairy-tale castle for romantics everywhere

That? I asked. "It's called the Dear Tower?" "No, no," my editor said. "Not the Dear Tower. The Deer Tower. Doe, a deer, like that. It's a folly. In Surrey. Go on, see what you think." So off I went — and wouldn't you know it but it is a dear tower. Standing on a high knoll and reaching about 100st above the surrounding countryside, it was built in the middle of the 18th century so that the master of the manor a mile or so away would have something pleasing to set his eye upon as he gazed from his great window. The tower now sits in its own 120 acres and the happy tenant may gaze back with impunity at the big house across the park.

The 40ft tower appears on a surveyor's map of 1808 and is described in its Listing fit is Grade II) as "a verderer's lookout or eyecatcher from the mansion". It is certainly the latter.

Surrey is prime commuter-belt country, and the notion of a rural pad near Guildford conjures up the image of something small and square and snug, most likely cuddled close up to the next trainbound Londoner's cottage. The Deer Tower, therefore, is something of a revelation.

Driving towards Shillinglee, you turn on to a curving, unmarked track, and from behind a low rise the tower's crenalizated turrets appear. It is a coy fortress, however, built for romance rather than repelling invaders: its tall front bow window (and the windows that punctuate both towers) would not be much use against even a crude medieval siege engine. Huge chest-



A window-cum-door leads to the ornamental lake

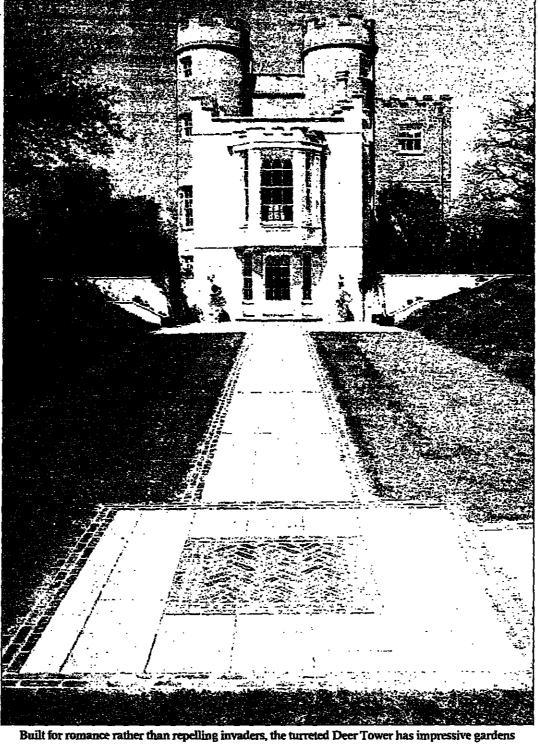
nut trees and tall yews sway nearby, carpets of bluebells sur-rounding their trunks in spring. This place seems a hundred miles from anywhere, not just a few from Virginia Bottomley's constituency.
Michael Taylor, an inventor who

owns the tower, is looking for a tenant, though he is clearly eager to live in the place himself. It can be provided furnished or unfurnished. A month's rent — with the run of the grounds and gardens and plenty of space to land your helicopter — will cost you £8,750. This includes furnishing, which can be changed to suit the tenant.

Do not, however, expect to hold house parties for hundreds. Part of the Deer Tower's charm is its scale, which is, if not small, then

unintimidating cosy.

A paved walk leads you away from the drive to a stone-floored dining room and a snug, red Aga'd kitchen. You could comfortably fit 12 around the dining room table. and the kitchen has two sculleries, but the low ceilings keep the rooms from seeming over grand.



first encounter one of the Deer Tower's many charming features: curved bookshelves whose shape echoes that of the turreted towers. And you find that things at the Deer Tower are not always what they seem, because one set of bookshelves is actually a trompe l'oeil door concealing a handy little room for wellies and raincoats.

As you head upstairs the tower really comes into its own, and one. of its finest features is the wooden It is in the dining room that you spiral staircase (three full turns; 47

steps to the top), its steps fanning out from a beautiful, polygonal central wooden pillar. The walls are whitewashed, pierced by bright windows and divided by a delicate curving banister. Such graceful architecture would make dashing upstairs to retrieve a forgotten

On the first floor the stairs open on to an octagonal sitting room, its walls pale ochre, its strong plaster mouldings echoing the shape of the tower's battlements. It isn't a big

room, but its view is grand, with a window-cum-door leading to a formal. French-style garden with an ornamental lake.

Many walls make many doors: spoking off from the sitting room are a larger, more formal sitting room, with more secrets hiding behind what seem to be bookcases, a tiny, octagonal antechamber and a library, which could also serve as a bedroom. The library, painted deep red, looks out over a very English garden: little paths and low



Bookcases in the sitting room aren't always what they appear to be

HOUSE OF THE WEEK

The Deer Tower, Shillinglee, near Chiddingfold, Surrey. ● Rent: £8,750 a month. ● Shopping: For staples, Guildford is 12 miles to the north: Petworth, eight miles south, has 20 antique shops. • Travel: Waterloo to Haslemere takes about an hour. • Entertainment: Golf courses at Shiffinglee, Enton, Liphook and Hindhead — and, because there's space at the tower to land your helicopter, 18 holes at St Andrews wouldn't be too problematic Parham and Arundel Castle are not far away for those who want to see the real grandeur that their comfortable folly reflects

hedges and cherry trees. On all sides the gardens are splendid: unless you were a tenant wishing to do nothing else, part of the cost of running the Deer Tower would be keeping on the gardener who comes three days a week.

The library has an en suite bathroom, as do'the two bedrooms upstairs. There is a guest bedroom on a mezzanine floor: the master bedroom is on the second floor. The latter has a terrace, and a bathroom and dressing room tucked into the towers. Both bedrooms are simple and comfortable: one of the pleasing things about the Deer Tower is that it is not intimidatingly grand.

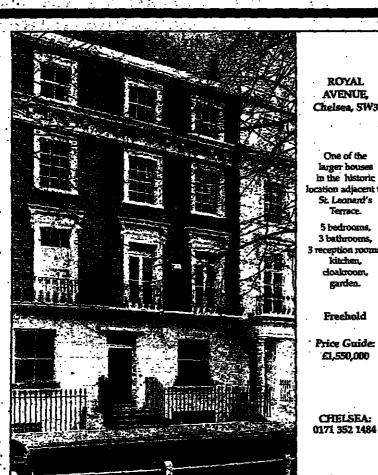
For the finest views of the park.

however, carry on up the stairs, past the master bedroom to the roof of the tower. Here, stretching all around - apart from the manor house across the way - is nothing but parkland, woods, fields where deer are to be found and a large lake, in which you may fish if you ioin the local club. And from this vantage point you can truly appre ciate the beauty of the formal gardens. You can also see the two garden pavilions: one of them fitted out as a studio, with tall windows and a galleried bedroom - perfect for visiting artist pals.

Back downstairs, Mr Taylor showed me a painting that the previous owners had commissioned before they sold the house. It is a detailed view of the house and all its grounds, done in bright. jewel colours, with the two owners and the painter making appearances on the canvas. It reminded me of the work of the artist Kit Williams, whose Masquerade had the whole country searching for a golden hare: and that is just the feel of the place, a little magical, a little mysterious - you might almost believe that the stone centurion hiding behind a hedge will open his

mouth and speak. Here, little more than an hour's drive from central London, is a secluded, fairy-tale castle, where happy endings would seem to be

ERICA WAGNER Agent: Hampions (01483 577577).

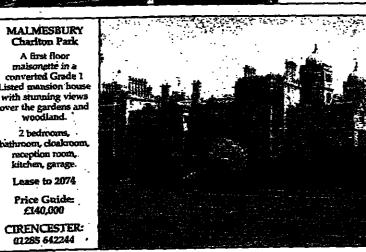


ROYAL AVENUE, Chelsea, 5W3

One of the in the historic cation adjacent 1 St. Leonard's

eception ro kitchen, garden.

Price Guide: £1,550,000







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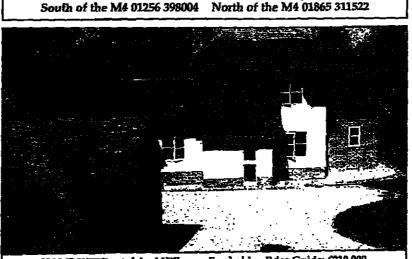
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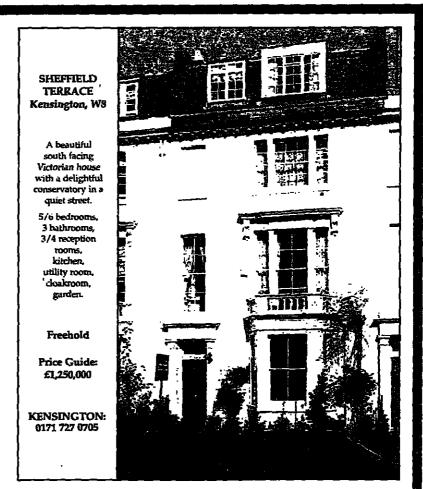
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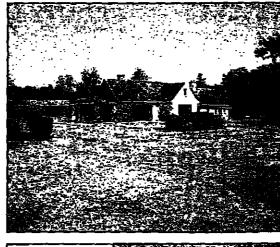
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Price Guide: £575,000 LYMINGTON: 01590 677233

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With a booming market, even houses with drawbacks are selling and can be picked up at discount prices

Problem house for sale

s the housing market improves and prices rise, the dearth of available properties in many parts of the country has meant that problem houses and flats which have been bypassed for the past two

years are now finding buyers. The kinds of flaws that can make a property difficult to sell include having a noisy main road, motorway, airport or railway line within earshot: subsidence, a short lease, a sitting tenant or a public footpath through the backyard, farmyard smells or army manoeuvres.

Most estate agents agree that whatever the blight, property will always sell — eventu-ally — if the price is right. But when the market slumps and there is a glut of property. problem houses and flats are notoriously difficult to shift. However in a good market. when supply is short, buyers are prepared to overlook their

PROPERTY **NEWS**

THE CHANGE of Government will have little effect on the housing market, according to Strutt & Parker. James Laing, head of the agency's rural division. says: *We recently forecast that property prices would rise by up to 40 per cent between now and 2000. The prospect of five years of Tony Blair gives us no reason to amend that."

THE Manor House, a former home of one-time motorcycle world champion Barry Sheene, is for sale. The Grade H* listed house in Charlwooi. Surrey. has six bedrooms and a swimming poul. Price £725.000. Contact John D. Wood on 01342 326326.

drawbacks. The estate agency Knight Frank recently sold Warrens Gorse, a Grade II listed eight-bedroom Cotswold stone house in 21 acres of garden and paddocks, about 275 yards south of the new Cirencester bypass, for its asking price of £750,000.

Atty Beor-Roberts, a Knight Frank partner, says: "A house of its size and facilities, in a quiet location away from any roads, would probably be on the market for £1 million, but the price reflects the proximity of the bypass and as a result we received a lot of interest. There will also be benefits from the bypass with easy access to Swindon, the M4 and the M5.1

In Surrey, Carson and Company was flooded with offers when it advertised a modern four-bedroom house a few yards from the M3 at Camberley. The house, which fetched £180,000, is one of several in the area owned by the Ministry of Transport and bought for a motorway-widening scheme that failed to materialise.

Chris Brown of Carson says Away from the motorway the same house would have been £225,000. In a quiet market it could have stayed on our books for two or three years but, with the current shortage of properties, such houses sell quickly for increasingly high

In Hampshire, John D. Wood is asking £180,000 for Winchester Lodge, a Grade II listed 19th-century three-bedroom lodge house, on the edge of the M3. According to the firm's director Anthony Coaker, it would fetch £250,000 half a mile from the motorway.

The constant hum of a busy main road is generally considered to be worse than a railway, and for this reason you will get better value with a house affected by the noise of traffic, with discounts of up to 20 per cent. Homes built beneath aircraft flight paths



can attract even larger discounts, but if you are living near a military airbase the noise could be intolerable.

ven houses with the Channel Tunnel high-speed rail link at the bottom of the garden are now selling, according to Conrad Payne of Cluttons' Canterbury office. He says that in some areas close to the Ni2C railway banks being built for the link will deaden the noise of the M20 and house prices here may even appreciate. Last year, David Parry of Cluttons' Maidstone office

sold a five-bedroom loth-cen-

yards of the M20 and the highspeed rail link, for its asking price of £210,000. Away from road and rail, a similar house might have fetched 20 per cent more, he says. In central London, the rum-

ble of Tube trains under some houses in Kensington and Chelsea can wipe 5 to 15 per cent off the value. Streets such as Camden Grove. Peel Street and Bedford Gardens, which all run down to Kensington Church Street, have a Tube line underneath. A £1 million house may be reduced by El50,000. A similar disparity anolies to houses and flats opposite council estates.

The closer to Kensington Church Street, the bigger the discount to take account of the busy road, according to Tim Wright of Savills' Kensington A property on a short lease

is in Knightsbridge or Belgravia. High-street banks and building societies are reluctant to lend on leases with less than 60 years to run. But it can be good value for cash buyers. provided you get one which is extendable or enfranchisable - which means that the buyer has the right to negotiate a new lease after three years.

This is likely to cost about 60 per cent of the freehold or long easehold value, with 30 or 40 years left to run.

The London estate agency Chesterfield is offering a fourbedroomed flat on the fourth floor of a converted period building in Ennismore Gardens. SW7. for £695,000 for a 29-year lease. If the lease were extended to 105 years, which would cost around £150,000, the flat would be worth about £925,000, says Matthew Kaye

hort leases are less common in the countryside, however. John D. Wood's Winchester office is selling the 14-year lease on a three-bedroomed detached cottage on the Marquis of Bath's Longleat estate. Offers around £37.000 are being invited, although its freehold value is around £150,000.

A sitting tenant with a registered tenancy would

knock between 65 and 85 per cent off the vacant value of the property, according to London estate agency Winkworth. With assured short-hold tenancies, value will be largely unaltered because the owner can be hard to resell, unless it can get vacant possession

within a short period. But you might be able to negotiate 5 A house with a serious structural defect, such as subsidence, is more of a problem. Building societies are not premarket, purchasers are wary

HOUSES beside rivers,

creeks or the sea are

highly sought after and

fetch a premium of up to 50 per cent despite their

increased risk of flood-

ing, says Robert Theo-

bald of Fulfords Water-

It is possible to allow

for flooding in the de-

sign of a property. Floors should either be

tiled or slated, with no

timber skirting boards.

There should be mini-

side Homes in Devon.

pared to lend on such proper-ties, which are often difficult to insure. Even in the current of buildings that are moving. As a general rule, when a

FLOOD

dial work, sometimes underpinning, before the house is offered for resale. But buildings that have been underpinned may be shunned by insurers, prospective purchasers and building society

Flaws that make a property hard to sell include being under a flight path, left, near a motorway, top, or having an ugly outlook, above. Sitting tenants, farmyard smells, public footpaths and army manoeuvres are also

drawbacks, but many buyers are willing to overlook such problems

son of Cluttons' Oxford office,

survey reveals subsidence, the property is taken off the market and the vendor's insurer pays for monitoring and rememoney when you sell.

Wrecks that are not subsiding are a different proposition. Such properties in need of restoration or modernisation used to take a long time to sell, now they are in demand and fetch increasingly high prices, according to Sheila Hodgkin-

WARNING

mal furnishings which

can be easily removed to

the first floor level.

Houses with cellars can

be fitted with automatic

Some waterfront

houses have their own

flood defences and can

be surrounded with sub-

stantial walls or

mounds. The drive will

have to be raised and

provision made to stop

drains flowing

wrong way.

pumps.

who has a waiting list of prospective purchasers lookng for houses requiring work. But renovation costs are high and you might not recoup the

he desire to move from suburbia to a rural setting is often dampened when it is realised that agricultural smells come with the package. West Country agency Marchant Petit says it had agreed the sale of a house near a farm. deep in the Devon lanes. The London buyer's surveyor made his inspection on a day when the annual muck spreading had taken place. When the offending odours were mentioned in his report, the buyers disappeared, and the house sold to a local buyer for the asking price. A pig or chicken farm next door, how ever, would knock up to 20 per cent off the value of a house.

An army training ground on the doorstep might seem a significant drawback, but Knight Frank's Hungerford office recently sold a 17thcentury farmhouse in six acres at Everleigh, a Wiltshire hamlet, abutting Salisbury Plain. Despite tank, helicopter and assault troop noise, the house fetched £500,000 - about £150,000 less than a similar

house a few miles away. A footpath or bridle path can slash up to 15 per cent off property value where they affect the security or privacy of the house. Much depends on how often the path is used.

CHERYL TAYLOR

COMPETITION AND READER OFFER

THE

WIN A WEEKEND FOR TWO IN VENICE

Plus take a friend free to the Serenissima exhibition



The Times, in conjunction with the exhibition at the ▲ European Academy & Accademia Italiana, Serenissima: the Arts of Fushion in Venice from the



13th to the 18th Century and in association with Alitalia and Italian tour specialists The Magic of Italy. give you the chance to win one of two fabulous weekend breaks in Venice staying at the Hotel Cipriani.

For almost one thousand years Venice was La Serenissima, the most serene republic, leading the world in trade - and fashion. With more than 180 loans from private and public collections, the exhibition, at 8 Grosvenor Place, London, from May 13-July 20, 1997, is a celebration of the variety and individuality of Venetian fashion.

On display are the shoes with 22-inch soles of a fifteenth-century courtesan, the carnival costumes of the eighteenth century, paintings and prints, including the works of Pietro Longhi, illustrating the important role of crafts at that time.

The winners will fly Alitalia and transfer by water taxi to the luxurious Hotel Cipriani which was created to provide the best of Venetian hospitality. The prizes

for two people for two nights includes breakfast on both days and one dinner at the hotel and free admission to the Museo Correr and Palazzo Mocenigo. The winners also get free admission to the Serenissima exhibition.

For further information about the Serenissima exhibition please call 0171-235 0303. **HOW TO ENTER**

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a) a king b) a prince c) a doge The line will be open until midnight on Tuesday.

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THE STIMES

Serenissima Exhibition voucher This voucher entitles the bearer to a free adult ticket worth £5 when you buy one full-price adult ricket to: Serenissima: the Arts of Fashion in Venice from the 13th to the 18th Century. The exhibition runs from May 13-July 20, 1907 at S Grosvenor Place, London SW1.

CHANGING TIMES

SELLING **POINTS PONDS**

to put a house viewer more on guard than things watery. A hint of rising damp, wet rot, gurgly plumbing or dark patches and they start moving to-wards the front door. It is ironic, then, that gallons of water poured into a hole in the ground has the opposite effect. Watch anyone step into a garden with a pond and they are drawn towards it like Pooh Bear to a honey jar. If nothing else, a pond will help your house stand out in the jaded memory of househunters. Ponds can

transform a bland town garden or drab backvard. They create their own microclimate, supporting moisture loving plants and mosses, and attracting dragonflies and butterflies. And these days, with plastic pond liners, you don't need to hire a concrete mixer.

'A pond needs a sunny, sheltered spot, away from overhanging trees. Ideally, it should be a minimum of 35 to 40 square metres and between 40 cm and 76cm deep. Smaller ponds may suffer from algae, cloudy water and slime as the water cannot aerate efficiently. An algicide can help or you could install a filtration system. If too shallow, the water will evaporate in summer and freeze in winter, killing or damaging plants and fish. With limited space, you will need to be vigilant; topping up the water in summer and taking fish



Ponds can transform a town garden or drab backyard, as in the film Mon Uncle

indoors in the winter. The choice is between a pre-formed or flexible pond liner. The former is easier to install but more expensive (from £40 to more than £250). They are limited in size and shape. Flexible liners can be made to any configuration but demand more care when fitting. Expect to pay between £20 and £50. In small spaces, stick to geometric styles, complex, "natural" shapes can look like large

For both types, you must line the hole with sand before installing the liner. If you opt for a flexible liner, dig out a shallow shelf around the edge for marginal plants. Surround the pond with paving stones or bricks to shade and disguise the liner. Safety is also important, particularly with young children. Consider surrounding the

pond with looped wire fencing. After filling with water, let it stand for a week or so before adding plants. Go for a good mixture - marginals, floaters, oxygenating plants and, of course, the water lily. It is easier and less messy to keep plants in their containers. If adding fish, take advice from a reputable fish stockist and remember that they will need extra attention.

If space is cramped you can create a small pond out of any watertight container, such as a half-barrel or old sink. Add pebbles or stones and a few

marginals or dwarf lilies. Keep an eye on your pond. Leaves, shallow water and shade will turn it into a sludgy, green slime - almost as bad as rising damp and wet rot.

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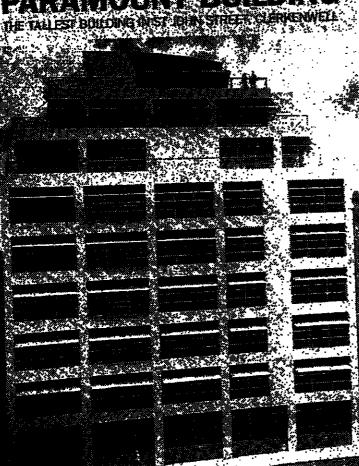
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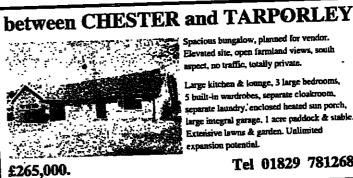
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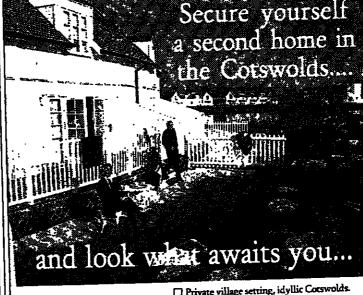
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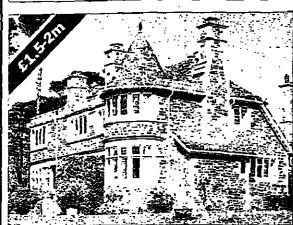
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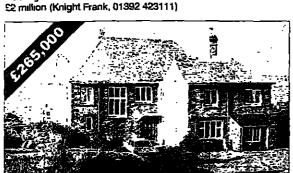
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be a millionaire to own an island

wning your own island kingdom and escaping from the outside world has a seductive appeal for many people, but most see them as havens for the rich and famous, with a spare few million pounds to invest in sandy Caribbean beaches, surrounded by deep blue seas.

The line-up of island owners reads like Who's Who. The granite castle built by the business tycoons, the Barclay twins, on the island of Brecqhou, off Sark is perhaps the ultimate retreat. Richard Branson famously owns Necker in the Caribbean, while his brother-in-law bought the Scottish island of Eilean Shona last year. Earl Waldegrave is selling his 237-acre Scottish island. Eilean Righ. off Ardfern. in Argyll. launched by Knight Frank and Vladi Private Islands for offers over

Farhad Vladi, of Hamburg-based Vladi Private Islands, has 120 islands on his books at the moment. Near the top end of the market he is offering Little St James Island, in the US Virgin Islands, for £7.5 million complete with lodge and three guest villas, while one mile from Ibiza he is selling the 25-acre Tago Mago island, probably the last Mediterranean island which can be purchased outright. The asking price is £2.4

But there are islands with more modest price tags. Mr Vladi says good hunting grounds are Canada, Maine in the United States, Ireland and Scotland. He is currently marketing uninhabited Samphire Island in the Blackwater estuary, for £68,000, which measures 70 acres at low tide, 35 acres at high tide. Around Nova Scotia he has an abundance of lake and coastal islands, the cheapest is a tiny island on Lake Charlotte, a mere £3,500. Strawberry Island, with beach and small house has a £124,000 price tag, while the aptly named Dream Island, with a small house and beach, is on the market for E87.000.

Guy Galbraith of Savills is adamant that you don't have to be rich to own an island, just a bit of a romantic. Colin Strang Steel of



The island of Pabay off the Isle of Skye, is for sale for £395,000. Its current owner says: "If you run out of sugar, you have to get the boat out"

Knight Frank agrees: "Some islands can be bought for just a few thousand pounds. They can be anything from a lump of rock to a haven of lush vegetation and sandy beaches. Some people are willing to buy a rock which they can't ever do anything with, just so they can say they have their own island."

Luciano Pavarotti showed interest in buying Eigg, recently bought by its 63 inhabitants. Pavarotti considered creating an international opera centre there. But the plans were abandoned because of the island's lack of basic facilities. Despite acres of beaches, spectacular cliffs and caves, as well as three sites of special scientific interest. Eigg has no mains electricity or shops, and is often cut off for days during bad weather.

Islands may bring out the romantic in many people, but the reality can be rather different, says David Harrison, the reluctant vendor of the island of Pabay off the Isle of Skye, for sale through Savills for £395,000.

"I saw an advert for Pabay back in 1988, went up there and fell in love with it," he says. "It's close enough to Skye but the 3.5 miles means it's also far enough away. I've had many holidays up there with my family, away from the rat race and spent the away from the rat race, and spent the

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ON THE MARKET: THREE TO CONSIDER

first five years restoring the island, planting 40,000 trees. But it is a different way of life, especially if you are used to telephones. No two days are the same up there and your whole life is based on the weather and the sea. And if you run out of sugar, it's not just a matter of popping down to the supermarket in your car. You have to take your own boat across to Skye. I'm selling because I had a

health scare a couple of years ago."

Reality started to bite early for potential buyers of Eilean Musdile last year, when they first had to catch the ferry to nearby Mull and were then ferried over by the local police.

Hamish Spencer-Nairn of Strutt & Parker says: "Although it is lovely you'd have to be very hardy to live there. There's no mains electricity and you'd have to own your own boat. People have very romantic notions of owning their own island, possessing the whole thing and not having neighbours but it is not as

easy as it might seem." Mr Vladi estimates that it costs about £70,000 to make an American or Canadian island inhabitable, to build a home with power, water and sewerage systems: People can find island life harder than they ever have imagined." he says. "Generally

people see islands in the summer, but it is a different story in winter when, if the island is remote, you might not

be able to get there at all." Mr Galbraith of Savills says that islands can be divided into major and minor commitments. Wild and remote places should be approached with care. Others are simply fun

un whether an island is inhabited or not, there are responsibilities to take into account: "If an island is inhabited by no one but the owner, he will have to maintain a quay or slipway, an electricity supply, and ensure that the water passes the E.coli test.

"On inhabited islands, the owner must also provide ferry transport for residents, or at least contribute to the cost, which can be supplemented by local authority funds, as they are obliged to provide access to schools and maintain the mainland end of the slipway. I have sold the island of Gigha three times. It's a big place and expensive to run, with a large moral commitment to the community."

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Rural Britain is preparing for the summer invasion of townies, most of them blissfully unaware of the grim realities of country living

fling my arms wide to welcome them, prepare to kiss them fleetingly a on both cheeks, brace myself to tell them how marvellous it is to see them. The darling luvvies of May are out of winter hibernation and on their way to the country. I think they should receive a

truly rural welcome It was reported in this newspaper a couple of weeks ago that a couple of smart London clubs, haimts of "media movers and showbiz shakers", are to set up branches of their West End establishments in the country. Just basic, humble places where a troubled soul can be at peace; you know, 30 bedrooms, a 25metre pool, gym, squash courts and an adting suite, like all country people have.

The brochure offers "a warm dining room! bar serving wholesome, unfussy food! Real country cooking from the heart of England. Well, from the River Cafe cookhook anyay. It is the declared intention of these clubs "to provide an alternative to weekending". In which case, where will they find any customers? Have you ever heard anyone of any style who admits to being a "weekender"? Instead, they will dress their fleeting residencies with such expressions as "we

The darling luvvies of May arms folded like a nightmare insect.

come down every free moment we have or lie boldly by saying "we live in the country" when all they do is turn up for the best three weekends of the summer and endear themselves to all by clearing the post office of bread in a Saturday dawn raid. One of the best euphemisms was from an author whose flyleaf says: "Suffolk has been her home, if not her dwelling place, for many years."

Will any of these movers and shakers ever move themselves away from the log fire and shake their minds into a broader understanding of what day-to-day country living is like? In case any of them feel they should, may I offer my itinerary for the New Country Weekend?

It begins in a car, ends in a car and much of it is conducted from behind a steering wheel. Expect the early stages to be slow. This, of course, is just what the harassed, creative type needs to unwind: three hours behind a convoy of caravans. mesmerised by the plastic flowers dangling in the broad window of the lumbering mobile home ahead.

Families need not be excluded from the joys of travelling: Sainsbury's carrier bags is the one bar of chocolate the children are allowed all weekend, and they want it now. The fruitless search and the resulting bad

temper puts our in-trepid traveller in the ideal frame of mind for the moment he can can pull off the trunk road into the freedom of a leafy country lane - where he soon finds a massive tractor ahead. The driver will be so high in the cab that he will not be able to see you behind him because of low cloud. Strapped to the back of this tractor will be a sprayer, its appear, a kindly passing soul will tell you

DOWN TO EARTH



spray tank, wonder what it is and what it might do to you, is that fine mist on the windscreen some kind of leakage? Why are bubbles appearing on the paintwork of the car? Even so, you do not got the real flavour of

You will have many

slow miles in which

to observe the slosh-

ing contents of that

country living by arriving in a car. Instead, do the plucky thing and see if you can get down here by train and bus. This might take longer than the two days available to you. Do not despair if you have been standing by the roadside for two hours, wondering when the bus will

Wednesday. So you get a taxi, and the driver will tell you in great detail how he had his own business, till the Tesco opened on the bypass, and the business rate linished him off.

But there are country walks to be had, and I expect these rural branches of London clubs will have this well organised with guided tours. Bill Oddie will be hired to point out thrushes and David Bellamy to highlight the flora before you tread on it ("I'm sure that garden centre outside Marlborough has some just like it. We'll stop on the way back."). But for the real country weekend experience, you should strike off and find your own haven of peace in an otherwise troubled world. Take wirecutters for the inevitable barbed strands artistically draped across the footpath wheel drive enthusiast loses it while

trying a handbrake turn just as you have

one leg over the stile. Go in search of a wild flower meadow, imagining yourself into a Merchant Ivory screenplay as you float through the daisies.

This may take time. Finding a wild flower meadow needs a search party or a helicopter with trained observers. Instead, take as your inspiration the Bloomsbury group. Imagine how they would handle it. Ensure you have a large hat, are well versed in the gardening styles of Vita Sackville West, take an elegant tea and prepare to exchange rapier-sharp, erone observations with fellow guests. But remember to raise your voice for your most crushing epigrams because the army helicopters will be on low-flying practice. Or that tractor driver has chosen the next field to take revenge on all things natural.

But never mind, the creators of these rural retreats, linle bits of Soho midst the meadows, will have fitted every room with a Jacuzzi. Marvellous, as long as the water holds out.

Readers' letters are welcome on countryside matters. Write to

A pound to combat pounding feet

Gareth Huw Davies finds visitors will willingly pay for the damage to Lakeland

avid Bellamy famously described in 1981 the impact of huge numbers of visitors on one of Britain's most treasured landscapes. "The Lake District is being loved to death," he said. Now, 16 years later, the visitors are beginning to pay for their passion in the way he hoped.

One expression of the careless violence people do to the adored Lakeland - visited by more than 12 million people a year - is the eroded footpath, gouged into a by umpteen tramping

Paul Kear spent last summer restoring degraded paths at Stickle Ghyll in Langdale using the ancient art of pointing - anchoring stones, iceberg-fashion, deep into the path to form a horde-proof

surface good for generations. Mr-Kear's work-was largely financed by a £1 voluntary levy on the customers of two holiday companies, Cottage Life and Lakeovers. So far the visitors have donated £10,000. Their generosity may hearten the unfortunate officer of The Highland Council in Scotland. whose proposal last week to charge walkers on Ben Nevis El for the upkeep of the paths and visitor facilities was first roundly savaged by recreation bodies, then thrown out by councillors.

The Cumbrian experience, where the newly formed Lake District Tourism and Conservation Partnership is co-ordinating two dozen separate repair and restoration schemes funded by visitors, suggests that people are willing to contribute to make good the damage they do to the landscape, if they are asked nicely.

Peter Jackson, the owner of Cottage Life, believes the crucial difference with the stalled Ben Nevis proposal is that the donations his customers make in Lakeland are entirely voluntary, and they are told precisely what their money is being spent on. Cottage Life even informs customers where Mr Kear is working, so they can stroll up and have a chat with him. This summer he is up in Langdale

Last year a few of Mr Jackson's 6,000 customers refused to make a donation. He believes those who



Paul Kear, left, with his assistant David Parry, reinforcing a footpath in Langdale with stones against the onslaught of walkers. The cost of the repairs was financed largely by the El voluntary levy

ticked the opt-out box on their booking form did so under the mistaken impression that they were in fact agreeing to the levy.

Visitors seem just as willing to pay a levy which the bus company Mountain Goat puts on its touring holidays. Last year not one person who booked with the bus company refused to pay an extra El, used to fence off a stretch of one of the busiest footpaths in the entire Lake District where it passes through a

bypass the farmyard. Until now, walkers on the highly

popular two-mile circuit around Buttermere have flooded in crowds of Piccadilly Circus density over the public right of way through Gatesgarth Farm. This summer, Mountain Goat hopes to raise the additional £900 needed to complete the special walkway which will

There is always a long list of urgent conservation tasks in the Lake District National Park. Nearly 70 miles of footpaths alone need repair work totalling an estimated £1.2 million. Much of the burden falls on the park authority and the National Trust, which work within tight budgets. The Lake District Fourism and Conservation Partnership saw a new source of funds, believing visitors would be willing to make a personal contribution to

the upkeep of the Lakes. The partnership unites the guardians of the landscape - the

conservation bodies and statutory authorities -- with the people who make money from the lakes, including some of the principal hoteliers, and encourages them to work together. It is believed to be

the only such scheme in Britain. his spring the partnership achieved corporate status after a three-year trial in which it raised £10,000 for conservation projects. And Mr Bellamy believes its work is the appropriate response to his warning, which he delivered to a convention of Cumbrian hoteliers. "I'm not sure if I was the first

person to say those words," he says.

Perhaps I was. But I told them,

'Here you lot are, using a landscape to make your living, and how much of the money goes into looking after the environment here? Sweet Fanny Adams. How many of you ask for contributions? No one. So this is an amazingly good move, very good news. It's the way forward for environment protection all over the

The partnership has hit on a new fund-raising strategy with the local brewer Jennings. This summer, patrons in Jennings pubs will be invited to play a picture quiz— "Guess the Lake"— for 50p. The prize is a holiday in the Lake District. The money raised will support the \$5,000 project to restore eroded grass around Castlerigg.

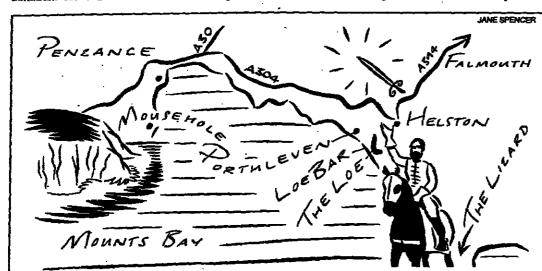
the neolithic stone circle near Keswick. Customers at the Regent Hotel, Waterhead, near Ambleside. also know the management cares. The hotel made a £500 donation to remaking a traditional packhorse bridge on the route up to Edale Tarn. Most of the £12,000 cost is being met by the parks authority and other bodies. Hotel guests are

being asked to fund the £2,000 shortfall. Striding Edge is a company which makes videos of Lakeland walks, and is headed by Eric Robson of BBC Radio 4's Gardeners' Question Time. An appeal it included with its first walks video. issued last year, has raised £1,500.

I found comparatively little oppo-

sition in the Lake District to the conservation levies. However several people I spoke to suggested that they might become an excuse for the Government to reduce or freeze grant aid, as has happened with arts funding.

John Tootihill, a national park officer, is sanguine: "In an ideal world we would receive as much money as we need to run a national park. 75 per cent of it from the Government, and then we wouldn't need to seek other sources of funds. But I think the tourism and conservation initiative is slightly different, in that it is about people who come to the Lake District and genuinely want to contribute, yet didn't know how."



ON THE SPOT: WEST CORNWALL

Rural recommendations

Place: The cliff road, Porthleven. View. Before you is an ever-changing seascape bounded by the Lizard to the south and the cliffs beyond Mousehole to the west. Behind, hardfavoured Cornish landscape, sparsely mantled with trees which bow before the relentless winds.

Appeal: The constant warfare between the untameable elements and a resolute coastline, to which cling granite cottages and those who dwell in them. Afficionados: Anyone who responds to the above. The natives themselves come out to gaze at the sheer

jury of the high spring tides. Historical interest: A tiny, but busy port in times

gone by. Now a quiet, picturesque harbour echoing to the call of guils. Guy Gibson. VC, the Dambuster hero, spent much of his youth here. A street is named after him.

Time of year: Autumn and winter to witness the awesome power of the ocean. Summer for an almost Mediterranean warmth and tranquillity.

How to get there: A394 and B3304 roads from either Falmouth or Penzance. OS reference: 625255 (Landranger 203).

Nearby: Walk the cliffs to Loe Bar and Pool - the latter, locals say, is the mere into which Sir Bedivere finally east King Arthur's sword Excalibur.

PETER DAVIES

March 31. the group name to 7 up to 75p.

Love songs with a croaky appeal

BUNTINGS are an attractive group of birds whose name rightly suggests that they have a chubby look. They are thick-beaked seedeaters, like their close relatives the finches, and might be described as finches with long tails.

In Britain, the three common species are the yellowhammer (sometimes called the yellow bunting), the corn bunting and the reed bunting. Yellowhammers and corn buntings have always been birds of the fields and hedgerows. and in recent years the reed bunting has joined them there.

It is still predominantly a bird of the reedbeds and willows, but lately many have moved away from the waterside and taken up their territories in fields of barley and oilseed rape. I have seen all three species singing alongside a field in the same long hedge, and a

merry sight they were. They all have fairly flat, croaky songs, but the males display themselves conspicuously as they sing them. Yellowhammers and corn buntings sit on telephone wires or the top spray of a bush. In their wetland habitat, reed buntings perch on the fluffy top of a bulrush or the highest twig of a

The reed bunting's song is the



A reed bunting likes to perch on the fluffy tops of bulrushes

few chinking notes with a scratchy little trill to complete it. It repeats this dry sound from its high perch hour by hour. But it is a fine sight as it sits there. It has a jet-black head with a white collar at the back and a fierce-looking white moustache. Its back is a rich chestnut colour, so beautifully streaked and barred that it always reminds me of a Turkish rug. On its shoulders

the chestnut becomes practically crimson. It opens its beak wide every time it delivers a snatch of song, and all the time it flirts its tail, showing the white edges.

Reed buntings are vigorous birds. The male courts his mate mainly by chasing her through the undergrowth, though he will also lift his black crown feathers and puff out his white collar to make an

in the tangled lower branches of an osier or a tussock of grass, or among the dense jungle of oilseed rape. Their four or live eggs have a marshy look - olive, with dark spots or slashes.

THE BIRDS are also well-known for their habit of "injury-feigning" when they have young in the nest. If a predator arrives on the scene. one of the parents will put up a very convincing display of having an injured wing. It will flutter along a track between the reeds, trailing its wing as though it were broken, offering itself as tempting prey to a car or a lox. It will adjust its speed to keep at a steady distance from its pursuer, and as soon as it is far enough away from the nest, it will

A number of birds do this - but the reed bunting is one of the most skilful performers.

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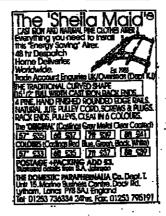
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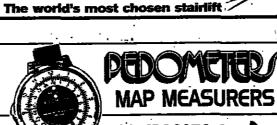


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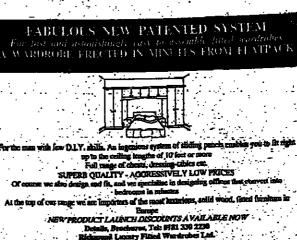
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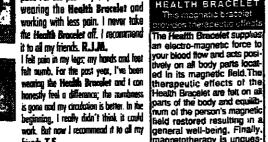
I was suffering from poins in the book ord sheuringtom of the spine. Also I had a terible pain in my shoulder the to an accident. Well, ever since I've been wearing the **Health Bracelet** I noven') had any back or shoulder pose. I also suffered from incommin and shomesh aches due to the stass and the pain. Now I sleep very well and no longer lawe stamach aches. The Health Bracelet works really last, other hoving warn it for only two mostles, I felt an increment. I've been wearing it for the years now and leet very good. Thank you R.D.

I've been wearing the Health Bracelet for four years now, and still con't get over longer suffering and is very numpy. We have been many changes have occurred. The point had from the charmatism in my legs years and recommend it to everyone. Air and Mrs G. and feel also disappeared. I was so satisfied with the Health Bracelet that I have been suffered by them I started wearing the Health Bracelet, it encouraged a friend who was sufficient from severe chemicals; pain to buy it. She told me the **Health Braceles** relieved much of her pain, I will always be grateful to you. Thank you from the bottom of my beart. G.L.

I was deutstul et first, but then I told myself I would by it. I bud sungery for lower back pain likeen years ago during which I went through a great deal of saffering. Thanks to great the Health Bracelet, I can no larger in pain. It's wonderful, I recommend it to every one. Four of my friends also bought one and are very satisfied with it. Thank you Y.L. My knees were swalen and I could barely walk, I saw on ad about how effective the Health Brocelet was, so I ordered one. After some fame, to my great suprise, both the parn and the swelling disappeared. My circulation also improved. couldn't do without my Medita Bracelet Cnymore; I strongly recommend it. H.T. My bones and my circulation were bad because I couldn't exercise due to I

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I've always worked hand on our form; over the years, I'd developed so much harsion in my arms and shoulders that I couldn't sleep because of the your. I also sented having publishers getting decread and functioning narrodly. After seeing on all about the Health cours due to an accident. We ordered two Health Bracelets, and much to our problems getting decread and functioning narrodly. After seeing on all about the Health cours due to an accident. We ordered two Health Bracelets, and much to our points went away. I no longer take the pain relievers or sleeping bacelet brought are a unbelievable. I don't feel pour onymous, I sleep very welt, and I'm pills, because the point has disappeared and I can sleep normally again. I also not alread to wark I've been wearing the throught for over three years, and I hoven't had digest better and don't have intestinal problems anymore. My write, Many, is no are retores. Cst. longer suffering and is very happy. We have both worn our bracelets for several

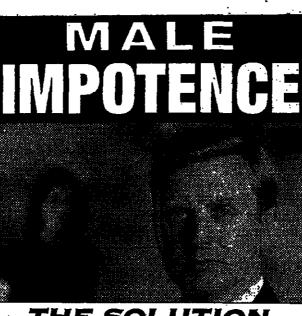
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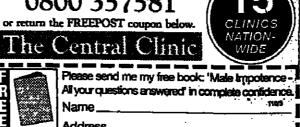




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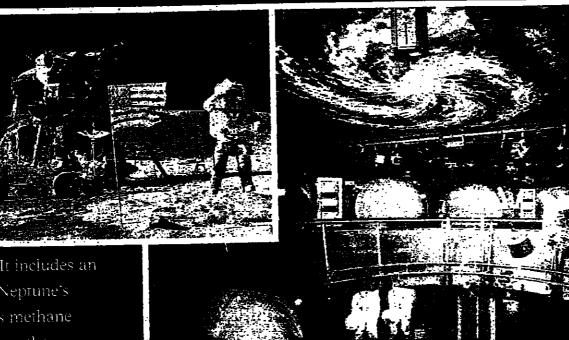
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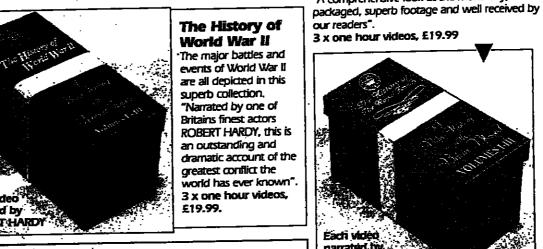


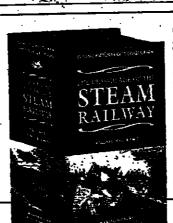
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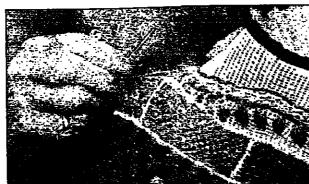
liam The Conqueror and poor Harold II with that arrow in his eye. But while woven wallhangings may be appropriate for castles, keeps, and great halls, they are not widely thought of as viable art forms for our own interiors. Yet in the hands of Phoebe Hart, the tapestry takes on a

bright contemporary touch. Her hangings and rugs are sought after as family heirlooms and as low-maintenance art works. An exhibition about to open in Cork Street, London, gives Hart's longtime passion a long-overdue Hart who is 80, trained at the Slade in stage design under Vladimir Polunin, who had designed sets for Diag-

hiley. Dramatic arts flourished in the 1930s and Hart was employed making back-drops for ballets, while also painting portraits and murals. She married early, became a land girl during the Second World War, lost her first husband in the conflict then went to New York to work. Then, following a chance

meeting, she went to Jamaica where she remarried and lived for 37 years. It was there that Hart began to embroider as part of a rehabilitation scheme for tubercular patients in an organisation called Carawak Crafts. Unimpressed with the unimaginative designs they had been given. Hart designed new patterns, influenced by the colours and sights of the island and by the vibrant contemporary Caribbean painting that flourished in

"Some of the embroiderers became very skilled," recalls Hart, who worked with Carawak for the next two decades. The work that they



Hart's style combines twisted yarn with sharper embroidery

produced became widely recognised, and Hart presented designs of Jamaican birds and shells to the Queen and to Princess Margaret on state

At this time, Hart frequently visited England, and met a friend who had started to make rugs to old Iberian designs. She adopted the friend's technique, using a background of the Bargello stitch - a long, straight stitch useful as a ground for more detailed motifs - and began making floor coverings.

Having American parents meant that she inherited an appreciation of American folk art, so she began to produce rag rugs and naive paintings. She sold several designs through the American embroidery doyenne Erica Wilson but she gave up this potential mass market in favour of oneoff pieces. "I hate repeating designs," she says. It proved more profitable to cut out the middle man and concentrate on making rugs and hangings to commission. For some years she has been making rugs and

tapestries full time at her home in Sussex and she cannot produce them quickly enough for those who wish to

commission commemorative

pieces. She says: "I would still

like to paint, but don't get the

art has arrived at her own working method, which is to combine crewel work - twisted yarn - with sharper embroidery for foreground motifs. It is a style that creates textural interplays; on a sea-shell rug, the shell images stand out from the background as if a soft basrelief; in other pieces, vegetables. fruit, and butterflies flit across the surfaces in hallucinatory fashion. Hart mixes wool, including knitting stock, and as a result gains tactile mixtures of materials.

She has made abstract tapestries and decorative pieces with floral patterns and borders, but most of her work is figurative and narrative. She is usually asked to make commemorative pieces, and

hanging for a golden wedding anniversary has several panels around the central motif of the nuptial church.

مكذامن الاصل

In another piece a Rolls-Royce's radiator glitters with a tinselly wool; while a tapestry for a businessman in Tobago is finished in the brilliant colours of the coral of that island. Hart is often asked to make funereal animal pieces one wall hanging graphically illustrates a cat on its way to heaven. But she resists dry historical recreation and the lure of reproducing them for business purposes. "I've been asked to put designs into production," she says, "but though each piece is quite painstaking, I rather like it that there is just one." As artworks, they are easy to maintain. "Tapestry is ex-

damage from light, as with a favourite pair of jeans, the fading can be attractive. Some of her pieces can work on either wall or floor, and all can be cleaned with carpet cleaner. Embroidery suffers, she thinks, from being thought of as a leisure occupation, or a cottage industry, or it is patronised as a dilettante female pursuit despite the fact that Kaffe Fassett, perhaps the best known embroiderer in the country, is a man. But those such preconceptions might miss one of the more

tremely durable, and doesn't

pull out of shape," she says,

adding that while there can be

OLIVER BENNETT Phoebe Hart's rugs and hangings can be seen at The Gallery, 28, Cork Street, London

reasonably priced ways of

acquiring a bespoke artwork.



Phoebe Hart's tapestries are much sought-after as family heirlooms. The Queen and Princess Margaret both have one

Crown your pond with living jewels

Koi carp are sociable and peaceful — and could make you a

This weekend the competition judges will be looking for shape, deportment and flawless skin. But they will not be admiring a catwalk of supermodels. This is the season of koi carp shows.

Going to shows is a great intro-

duction to koi keeping, because you

will find small and big fish in all their varieties and people selling a whole range of equipment," says Nigel Caddock, managing editor of the magazine Nishikigoi International — the word koi comes from a shortening of nishikigoi. His book Nishikigoi — Still Waters, a photographic record of koi and its culture, will be published in June. Another magazine for enthusiasts, Koi Carp. has a circulation of about 35,000. But Barry Goodwin, whose book The Enigma of Koi was published this week, reckons the number of enthus-

iasts in Britain is treble that. "I go to koi shows all over the country and for every person I talk to about koi carp. I meet another two who don't know about the magazine but are still very interested in the fish," he says. He has 65 koi, most kept in a 6ft deep, 8,000-gallon pond in his garden. The fish he buys are usually about 212 in long and cost £12 each. The most he has ever spent is £350 for one 18in long.



Mick and Debbie Herbert bought their koi carp for under £100 each

"You need room for them to swim around because if they don't get enough exercise, or if they are not fed properly, they will end up looking like a rugby ball," he says. His fish exist on a diet of koi food supplemented by cockles and shrimps collected by a friend from Grimsby.

During the winter the koi's metabolism slows down and, Mr Goodwin says, the fish will not digest food under about 43F. Some owners cover their pools in winter or keep the water slightly heated. "Without covering and heating, koi can go for

some months without food but it affects their health. By spring they will have lost a lot of weight and will get pretty run-down. My advice is to cover ponds during the worst of the weather. It is not advisable to allow the water to go below 35F," he says.

His fish have a "natural winter" until the end of January and then he heats the water gradually to 53F. This process shortens the winter for the koi and maintains a constant water temperature in the fluctuating climate of early spring. The cost of filtered pools is about £2,000, al-

FACT FILE

■ Norwich Koi Club Show, Royal Norfolk Showground, Costessey. Today, 9am-5pm, tomorrow, 9.30am-4.30pm (01328 851695).

Kennet Valley Koi Society Show. Donnington Grove Country Club near Newbury, Berkshire. June 21-22, 10am-4pm (0118-930 2044). British Koi Keepers Society. ngazines a year (01702 294452). ■ Koi Carp magazine, £2.75 a month, from Koi Carp, Alexander House, Ling Road, Tower Park, Poole, Dorset BH12 4NZ (01202 735090). The Enigma of Koi by Barry Goodwin, published by Freetyle Publications (same reddress as Koi Carn), £14.95. address as Koi Carp), £14.95. Mishikigoi International
magazine, E20 for four quarterly
issues including p&p. From
Nishikigoi International, Halton
House, Rosedale Avenue, Lowton House, Kosedale Avenue, Lowion. Cheshire WA3 2RW (01942 726864). Nishikigoi — Still Waters by Nigel Caddock, published in June by Nishikigoi International, £35 plus

though they can cost up to £10,000. Despite the koi carp's association with the rich and famous (Jim Davidson. Pete Waterman and Freddie Mercury have all kept them). looking after these fish can be a

satisfying hobby for anyone.
They're wonderful to be with after a stressful day at work; they're so peaceful and beautiful to look at. Living jewels' is what we call them in the koi fraternity." Debbie Herbert says. She and her husband, Mick, have kept koi for the past five years. Last year they built a 4,000-gallon

pool in their garden with a new water filtration system to replace a pond that was roughly a tenth of the size.

This will allow more space for their family of koi to grow. One of the 11 varieties the Herberts keep, a Chagoi doubled in size to 12 inches within 16 weeks. Two-foot fish are commonplace and the word is that in Japan, where koi are much revered creabeen offered to any person who manages to breed a metre-long specimen of any of the three top varieties: Kohaku, Sanke and Showa.

ost of the Herberts' fish were bought for under £100 each and they feed them, little and often, on a diet of prepared koi food, with the occasional treat of prawns, orange segments, lettuce and chicken. The Herberts are members of the

British Koi Keepers Society and Mrs Herbert recommends that people taking up the hobby should join. There are 13 varieties of koi in dazzling colours. The Kohaku is white with red patterns, the Sanke is white with red and black patterns and the Showa is black with red and

white markings. Koi Carp and Nishikigoi International both carry advertisements for dealers, or buyers should contact the British Koi Keepers Society which can put them in touch with their nearest breeder. When you are buying them make sure they look healthy — if they are, they will come racing up to you just in case there is food around," Mr

Goodwin says. "They are extremely

appealing pets, full of grace, sociable.

peaceful and fascinating to watch." CHRISTIAN DYMOND | Dibbs is playful and affectionate

Should I give green food to my Netherland dwarf rabbits (both neutered)? Some books say it causes bloat which can be fatal; others say small quantities are all right but not lettuce. But wild rabbits, who live on green food — includ-ing lettuce — thrive and

multiply. Can you help?

A Rabbus are vegetarians and fermentation is part any sudden influx of lush greens upsets this process. causing bloat. Wild rabbits change their diet with the seasons and this happens slowly. Feed yours in the same way. The juice from a lettuce stalk contains an alkaloid related to morphine but a rabbit would have to eat several large lettuces before it became a drug victim and wind would get him first. Green food is a danger only when given on a basis of "feast

one day, famine the next".

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Bare bones of a remarkable family saga



Ginny Dougary talks to Fay Weldon and her niece, novelist Rachel Morris, about their colourful relations

t is not hard to imagine these two women, almost ffiree decades apart, as mother and daughter: They have been issued with the same flaxen hair and open blue gaze, one famously widened by a Californian skin. sculptor ten years ago, a resolute jut to their chins and most eerily similar of ail the soft, breathy voice of a little girl, in which the Rs randomly flatten into Ws.

Since both women are writers, the older rather better known at this point than the younger, and much of our talk is about writing, one has the opportunity to be charmed by this impediment at regular

Fay Weldon is, in fact, Rachel Morris's aunt. It was Fay's mother who became a surrogate mother to Rachel and her two brothers when their own died, bringing up this new second family on very little money and in an atmosphere of steely asceticism in most unbohemian Essex. Rachel was II when Jane Morris, her mother — an unsung poet died of cancer. Her father, Guido, a founding member of various artistic movements in 1950s' St Ives, had disappeared when she was four.

Fay was the breadwinner, graduating from coming successful advertising slogans memorably, "Go to work on an egg" - to writing successful novels, providing her niece and nephews with exotic food parcels from London.

It is somewhat surprising to discover that Fav's success and the largesse with which she dispensed its spoils were frowned upon by the rest of particular. "My mother was very frugal Still is. So these comfortable things were seen as a sign of terrible decadence," she says insouciantly. I was brought up with an apple crate for a bedside table. with a curtain put in front of it to make it look nice. But it was still an apple crate."
So you rebelled against that?

"Of course," she shrugs. "And to a major extent." Rachel adds, grinning. Well, I've been a major spender ever

since," Fay says.

I wonder how Fay viewed her older sister's children. Did their status as orphans change the nature of her relationship with them? I remember Rachel telling me, when we were friends at university in the late 1970s, that she viewed Fay as an older, much-to-be-admired sister. Were these feelings reciprocal? "No," Fay says. "I felt like their mother who had farmed them out to my mother who had left her husband 20 years previously]. I did feel that along with my four sons she had the last one when she was 46 that I had these seven children — the whole thing of having to keep everybody. Although the state did a lot of it, I was really having to keep

this lot." Fay and Rachel come from a long line of what Rachel describes as jobbing writers. Fay's maternal grandfather, Edgar Jepson, was a marvellous, dandyish-sounding character who moved in the same literary circles as H.G. Wells. Bernard Shaw and Walter de la Mare, founded a literary magazine. The English Re view, with Ford Madox Ford and Joseph Conrad, and was a bestselling writer of detective novels in the 1920s and 1930s. He was also a man given to allowing monumental deci-



sions to be made on the which was the education of his daughter. She was four and in tears because she was about to be sent to nursery school, when "Edgar, who didn't like to be disturbed, came down in his silk-dresssing gown with his cigarette holder and said. Why is little Margaret making that noise? When he was told, he asked her. Do you want to go to school, Marga-ret?"," Fay recounts. "And she said, 'No' — and so she never went after that. My mother said that at the time she knew it was a major life decision. and the wrong one.".

"Little Margaret" was Mar-garet Birkinshaw, who grew up to write romantic fiction which she heartily disapproved of, masking her identity under the wild nom de plume Pearl Bellair - and the odd serious novel, the pro-ceeds of which helped to support her first and second families. Her brother, Selwyn Jepson, was a prolific writer of detective novels. "He was handsome and had many wives and used to fly in the Second World War," Rachel recalls. "He lived in great style was very definitely wicked." One would be hard-pushed

to find a more colourful antihero in fiction than Rachel's father. He was the archetypal tortured artist willing to sacrifice himself, and all those who came into his orbit, to his art.

Perhaps it is a generational difference; perhaps it is in the nature of the bond — the expectation from a child that the parent will not let you down but Fay can certainly talk about Guido with a great deal more equanimity than his daughter. Although when the Tate Gallery in St Ives acknowledged his contribution to the fine art of postwar handprinting with a posthumous exhibition in 1995, not one member of his family made the pilgrimage to Cornwall.

ot long ago, Rachel was confounded to discover that her father and mother had continued to communicate and, indeed, meet up with each other for years after his "disappearance". The couple wrote to each other three times a week, letters that never arrived on the home doorstep but were sent to the mother's workplace. "Jane didn't like people knowing what was going on," Fay recalls. "But it was fairly obvious, because suddenly Benjamin [Rachel's younger brother] appeared." Secrets and lies take root in even the most non-conformist

Guido was certainly an artist at inventing his life. Even his name was an invention to mask the banality of his background - born to a vicar and christened Douglas. He left that family behind but, as



Fay points out, "he left many families behind". A few years ago, a half-brother turned up from Mexico who looked exactly like the two brothers Rachel knew about.

How are we to take the tortured artist's most notable act of defiance - taking a job as a guard on the London Underground, where Rachel eventually tracked him down when she was 16? He was probably the only guard on the Underground, as she says, who could read Latin, Greek and Hebrew, Fay recalls hearing him over the public address system at Victoria, "with his amazing mellifluous cathedral voice. And he enunciated all the stations absolutely perfectly".

Only a man would make that kind of gesture," Rachel says. "It was a kind of, 'Oh my God, the world does not appreciate me - I will sacrifice myself. Fay says it was more specific than that "See where your mother, Jane, and Gran [Fay's mother] have driven me — determined that I should pay them some money for these starving children'... Rachel says, with some feeling: "But it was a stupid gesture." "It was a wonderful

gesture," her aunt insists. "It

was a crazy gesture, but it worked: 'Look what you have reduced me to - now you

back to feed the children with a bag of bones — "There's a lot of nourishment in these things"; a story Rachel has not heard before. Oh, my poor mother," she says.

Does it make her angry? She says it makes her feel very feminist. Her mother may have died of cancer, but what killed her, Rachel believes, was her pre-feminist values the artist's muse as a living sacrifice. Jane the good girl. Fay the bad girl. One dead; the other alive. "It is just like a novel." Rachel says, sadly. "Fay decided she wouldn't be a victim of the values that killed my mother, but would change

them - and she survived." To the onlooker, there is a certain irony that Guido's wilful rejection of success thereby convincing himself that the purity of his artistic vision was unsullied by materialistic goals - was more in keeping with the culture of the

family he had walked away from than some of the members who remained. "If you are successful you are by definition no good - I think he believed that," Fay says.

"And I certainly got that from this family." achel says: "It's this ascetic thing again, which runs in the family. In some ways. Gran and Guido were alike." "And Ron |Fay's exhusband and my mother were incredibly alike," Fay chimes

in, "Sometimes I thought I had

just married my mother."

So, Fay, has the family accused you of selling out? "Oh yes." she says. "They still do. Non-stop. All my life." It's the television scripts, of course, but also the fact that she is so successful. "I don't think it's bad," she says. "There's a degree to which one would probably have sold out completely - because it's very easy to believe that this is the

The great thing about these family situations is that there is a check, where you have to hold up a sort of mirror to yourself. And if you get too hooked on writing for tele-vision, you can think that's the only thing there is - and it's not. And, it must be said, if you think terribly well of yourself, that's not a good idea either.

The other thing is that I think I'm fortunate to have been a woman, because one wasn't able to do what the men did - what Guido did - and remove oneself from the necessities of everyday life: all your moral and emotional responsibilities. You couldn't because the children insist that you stay this human being. But this certainly didn't diminish your work in any way. It enriched it." It's not often that one gets a ger-or-swoon.

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chance to see that even very grown-up, well-known women can still feel keenly their

At the end of our meeting, just before Fay leaves to go shopping, Rachel turns to her aunt and says. It's a funny thing, family perspective. When we were growing up, it was always. The Amazing Fay' - especially from Gran. But I don't expect she ever told you that."

● Ella and the Mothers, the new novel by Rachel Morris (Sceptre Hardback, § 10.94).

■ Fay Weldon is making a new series for Channel 4, Big Women. about the rise and fall of a feminist publishing company.

Ruth Gledhill joins members of a Benedictine order on retreat in north London

Monks in a material world



anorak and jeans, a rucksack on his back and scallop shell strung around his neck, he did not look like a priest. Parishio-

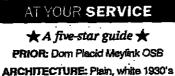
ners scarcely blinked as he pushed his bicycle into the back of the church and then sat, head bowed, on a chair near the front. This was the Rev Andrew Proud, Church of England rector of East Barnet in Hertfordshire, come for a blessing from the monks at the Roman Catholic Benedictine centre for spirituality in Cockfosters, north London.

The scallop shell indicated that Fr Proud was setting off on pilgrimage to Santiago de Compostela, the shrine of the apostle St James in northwest Spain which was a popular pilgrim-age destination in the Middle Ages and is in the throes of revival.

Like St James's shrine, the Benedictine centre, which offers retreats. spiritual workshops and contemplation courses, is experiencing a surge in demand from across the ecumenicai spectrum

The 13 Benedictine monks, with their motto laborare et orare (to work and pray), and the community of oblates, are meeting the needs of growing numbers of retreatants, as well as the 1,200 Catholics who attend the five Saturday night and Sunday masses in the Cockfosiers parish church, an adjunct to the monastery and part of the centre.

We were at a weekday mass where one of the monks, Dom Anthony, was about to send Fr Andrew off on his pilgrimage with the blessing of the



art deco. *** SERMON: Dom Anthony delivered a homily on the meaning of pilgrimage.

MUSIC: We sang psalms together. ** LITURGY: The modern Catholic

rite. ***

AFTER-SERVICE CARE: Retreatants enjoy lunch in silence with the monastic community. ****

the gospel and the Creed.

and into to Spain.

pilgrimage. Fr Andrew. 43, whose

wife Janice, a biologist specialising in

plant research, was beside him, had

been a volunteer for the centre's

pilgrimage team and had taken a

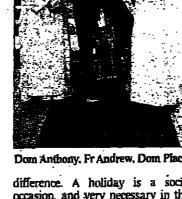
sabbatical from his Anglican minis-

try to go across the French Pyrences

"What is the difference between a

pilgrimage and a holiday?" asked

SPIRITUAL HIGH: Laborans et orans. ***



Dom Anthony, Fr Andrew, Dom Placid

community. "As for God, His ways difference. A holiday is a social are perfect; the word of the Lord, occasion, and very necessary in this purest gold," we sang from Psalm 17 stressful world of ours. A pilgrimage is more of a spiritual undertaking. It before the confession and a reading from Acts. There was another psalm, is a privileged moment in the life of an individual when we spend some time Dom Anthony, the director of the seeking the one who calls to us to live centre, preached on the symbolism of in His presence.

"It is at this time that we as individuals seek answers to the questions that lie within our hearts. It is a time of quiet, a time of grace, a time to be wholly focused in on God and on His word.

He went on to give Fr Andrew his official blessing. "My dear brother, as you set out you should remind yourself of the reasons for your Dom Anthony. "There is a big resolve to go on this holy pilgrimage,"

he said. The place you intend to visit is a monument to the devotion of the people of God." As indeed is the

"In the old days monks went into the desert: these days the desert is in. the city," reads an appeal brochure from a couple of years ago. "We are monks living in a big city. That represents a big challenge to us."

The monks have deliberately chosen an urban setting to present the secular world around them with a chance to find inner peace and an alternative to the materialist struggle. But they are not aloof from the torment of the world. In his latest newsletter the prior, Dom Placid, a Dutchman, asks: "Is it possible to be both British and European?" He goes on to confess that, try as hard as he could, he has never succeeded in becoming British.

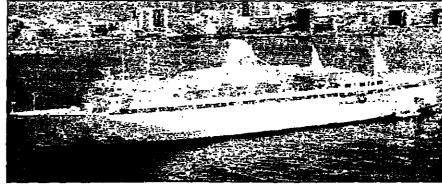
"What is worse, I have not even attempted it, because I have my own culture, traditions, language and mentality," he says. He loves England and hopes to stay here, but will die a Dutchman. My advice to you is: be true to yourself. Don't try to be a Dutchman, you will never succeed." he concludes.

I left feeling closer to God, and happily armed with some useful new Benedictine spiritual weaponry, to be brought into play when an argument over the single European currency surfaces, or at the very least, on the next occasion someone asks me to go

Dutch in a bar. Benedictine Centre for Spirituality, Church and Monastery of Christ the King, 29 Bramley Road, London N14 4HE

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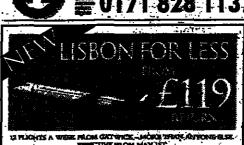
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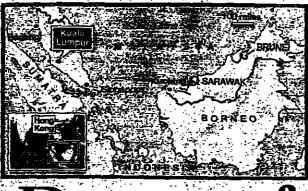
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THE TIMES

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Dream of drumming raindrops

Mammon and the mobile,

Despite the tearaway boom of

Malaysia's culture still excites

a little French film called The Scent of the Green Papaya, I went to Malaysia hoping to see trim. composed serving girls cooking at the squat on a tropic night; oils in woks fizzing over fierce fires, the drumming of rain on the corrugated roof of the kitchen. This, I thought. would all be easeful and sweet: a solace. What I found in Kuala Lumpur was an overblown, scattered former colonial city in which there were occasional bastions of charm from the pre-concrete and steel age. Wherever you wanted to go was miles away and taxi their trade in the New York .. menu were "Fish head". Shopping in the working--

fun. Eating, tremendous, it places where there was a follows the effinic composition microwave oven, and to have of the country. Chinese: Indian—the food (normally eaten at a or Malay (the last something tropical room, temperature) of a racial numble). The Malay are as the Victorian British described them: nature's gentlemen, but even the very intelligent among them are faintly hopeless. It may be the lack of aggression. The great thing, though, is that they are more than prepared to discuss the matter. Their Prime Minister. Dr Mahathir Muhammad, writes and speaks of nothing else. In the company of his newspaper articles and speeches, I whiled away happy hours brooding over the Thatcherite dilemma of a leader who is trying to insist that his people are the greatest on

earth while excoriating them for fecklessness. The food, whatever its provenance, requires courage. I couldn't see the point sitting in a smart restaurant indoors when there was much more drama to watch from pave-ment cafes, whose standards of hygiene do not bear inspection. The Asian boulevardier is an Italian or a Frenchman, he is slipping out to eat-because the till or the balance sheet no longer call him.

I selected one marginally less dirty eating place than the rest and had a wan tan soup to die for. Chinese men, seated six to a table, shouted into mobile phones, ignoring their dining companions. They looked well as well as prosperous, and I felt like eating their sort of food. It was midnight, and the air

was thick with a background of drains and the sound of deals being struck. I studiousdrivers seemed to have learnt the only English words on the

and my principle thereafter class Chinese emporia was became to use only eating

> enjoy yourself in Kuala Lumpur seems to be to get to Chinatown. The only sadness is that, as a tourist, you are expected. This has its compensations. but even so the eating remains hair-raising. I found the presence of strong fluorescent light tended to indicate a place which was likely to be cleanish, as though people prepared to be seen were more likely to be houseproud.

anyone involved in bringing even though the requirement that it be not probably struck them as comical, because they were confident it would be

delicious. yast island of Borneo. It was what a provincial centre ought

Somehow, on my first night,

ly ignored the chicken's foot in my stew, and wondered why The grime nagged at me.

The simplest way to

Here I met nothing but matter-of-fact kindness from me faintly recognisable food,

A week or so later I visited Kuching, in Sarawak on the not posing, in the manner of to be. Thriving and humming,

perhaps the most polluting venturers, fighting disease a water-taxi for an afternoon, idling among fishermen and finally shamelessly gawping and tedium upriver, squanvehicle on the island - took me into Georgetown. It is a dering their maturity in reliving boyhood pastimes among city designed to enchant the at one man as he saunted out tourist, partly because the Buddhists (let alone the Sikhs of his house down to the river such exotic natural history for a wash among his moored and imagining themselves neither gin-sodden nor barking. In the museum, too, is a and Hindus) are extremely canoes. My boatman then. headed downstream to potter

In Kuala Lumpur, once mighty mosques are now dwarfed by soaring office buildings, a reflection of Malaysia's progress from a colonial past

but far more manageable in scale than Kuala Lumpur. The Kuching river slides through the town, seeming almost more mud than water.

On the prompting of a local policeman I had met, I rented

among the comically scruffy cargo ships of the timber port. The crewmen evinced no obvious sign of caring that what their lives had gained in the happy-go-lucky they had entirely lost in privacy. Washing. sleeping and eating went on all about us.

seemed to stand still: the downpour seemed to want to beat the river to a standstill. I was getting close to my dream. Kuching, in its homely way, offered a deal of culture. There is a really touching police museum at the toy fort built by the Brooke family, which founded modern Borneo. It is across the way from the Hilton hotel and reached by water taxi. The exhibits were evocative on the period of the British counter-insurgency operations in the 1960s.

During a rainstorm, time

Kuching also has the Sarawak State Museum - founded by the white raj - which has become, like the British Museum, a museum of museumkeeping. Its collection of stuffed snakes, including the human bones found in the stomach of one of them, is at the same time grim and funny.

I cruised among the filing cabinets in which dozens of drawers contain the stiff little corpses of thousands of birds, still recognisably glorious in their fading plumage, each like a tiny grand duchess exuding the scent of preservative. Any one of them would have topped off a mad hat beautifully.

Here in the museum it is easy to imagine Victorian adbeautifully preserved long-house — a jungle home on stilts suitable for the original wild man of Borneo. And everyone you meet here claims to have a headhunter for a grandfather. One day someone, ashamed of the museum's quaintness, will seek to update it and blow its charm to

mostly are indoors in Kuching, and was pleased to see that the manager at the Hilton had shown courage in banning mobile phones from the Chinese retaurant. Mind you. he said, it's impossible to ban mobiles from the disco: the young could not map out their night's galavanting without cellular networking.

The next stop was a beach resort on the island of Penang. where the guests seemed happy enough, though I thought it vulgar. It looked like a hot Builins. I got so grand I eschewed the pool for swimming with day-tripper factory workers in the sea, and only really enjoyed the hotel's catamarans and my handsome room.

Several faces I recognised from the hotel had the same idea: down to the village for a decent Chinese meal, or to a good Indian restaurant, where the food was about one twentieth of the price of that in the resort. No microwave at these places, but a spoon each of fish. lamb and beef curries. their sauces elbowing each

other aside around the rice. Each day, the hotel's bus

White the proof man at 1 1 1 2 1 10 75p.

Malaysia Airlines (0171-341 2020) flies from Heathrow to Kuala Lumpur twice a day (once a week via Duhai). Fares to KL and Penang (with stopover in KLI start at £594: to Kuching via KL. £638. There are direct flights between Kuching and Penang three times a week, costing £84 one-way

FACT FILE

■ Abercrombie & Kent (017)-730 9600) offers a twoweek holiday to Malaysia from £1,439, including three nights in KL, seven nights in Penang and four nights' B&B at the Holiday lnn.

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Other tour operators include Far East Gateways (0161-945 4321) and the Malaysia Experience (0181-424 9548).

■ The author stayed at the Hotel Grand Continental in Kuala Lumpur (00 60 3 293 9333), where a double room costs £46 a night, including breakfast. In Chinatowi the Swiss-Inn (00 60 3 232 3333) charges from E32. At the Penang Mutiara Beach double room costs £100.

For travellers seeking architecture and heritage Khoo Su Nin's guide. Streets of George Town, Penang, is invaluable (£14, made payable to Janus Print and Resources, 120 Armenian Street, 10200 Penang, Malaysia).

For further information call Malaysia Tourism on 0171-930 7932.

Reading: The Travel Bookshop (0171-229 5260) recommends: The Golden Chersonese, by Isabella Bird (Oxford University Press. E11.95); The Consul File, by Paul Theroux (Hamish Hamilton, E(4.99); Malaysia & Singapore Handbook. (Footprint, £12.99).

almost incredibly loud new statue to the "Laughing One". One morning, I visited a family house in a side street. It had a papaya tree in the garden. I rang the bell and the man of the house, a Chinese Catholic teacher, introduced me to his mother, Khoo Su Nin, who has devoted herself to chronicling the city's colonial architecture.

uch architecture comes in several forms, mainly the wildly overblown and mostly derelict mansions built by Chinese merchants before they discovered air conditioning and moved on, and the fine, terraced shop-houses -cool, dim. grandly panelled, these are houses in which the indoors and the outdoors are barely separated.

The mother and son 1 met had a servant girl, and I am almost sure that if I had been able to stay for supper, and it had rained. I would have been delivered exactly the dream I came in search of. Though they might not be prepared to play the parts I had assigned in my mind's eye, they had at least preserved the film set.

RICHARD NORTH





colourful and their temples

accessible and welcoming. In

one I had my fortune told (it

was appalling news), and

made suitable propitiation by

paying for a fragment of

goldleaf to be applied to an

Excesses of a truly Teutonic order

on a journey along the region's "Romantic Road". On my second day there, for example, the minibus pulled up outside the austere portals of Landsberg prison. The big attraction: Adolf Hinler did nine months here after his ill-fated putsch in 1923, famously penning Mein Kampf.

You cannot go inside (it is still a prison), but you can stand outside the gates, put right forefinger to upper lip, raise straightened left arm in the air and goose-step up and down. Or, as we did, you can tut-tut at the embarrassing insensitivity of a young man doing exactly that, while his laughing girlfriend took a photograph. Crass Brits on holiday? Not a bit of it; they were Torsten and Monika, a pair of medical students from Muruch.

Our journey had started 40 kilometres up the road at the glorious, ancient city of Augsburg. We strolled along wide, leafy boulevards, wove through narrow back streets and along somnolent green canals, stumbled on squares with spouring fountains and gazed in awe at the soaring Gothic cathedral and imperious Renaissance Rathaus (town hall).

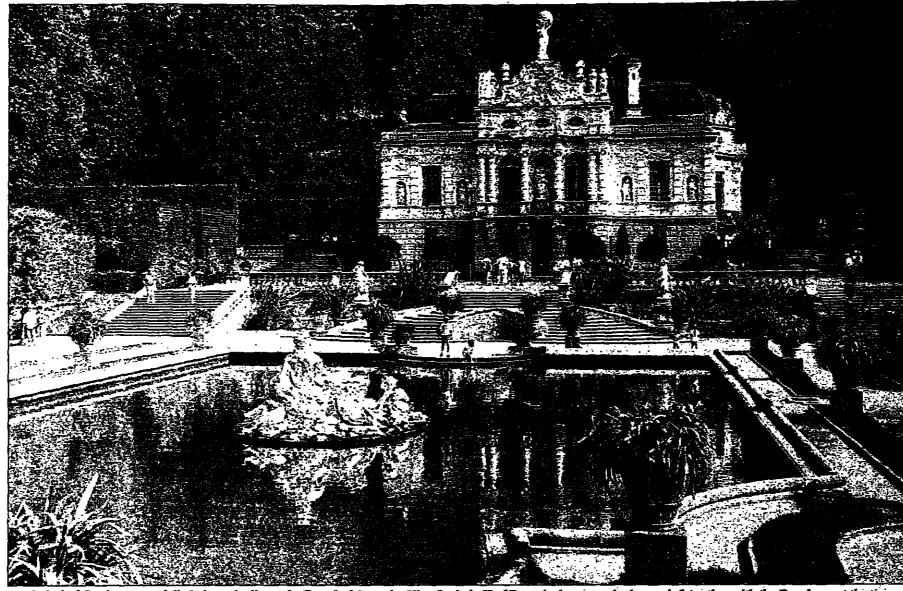
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So immaculately restored are the old parts of Augsburg that it was hard to believe the city was viriually flattened in 1944 - "by British Airways", as Christina, our smiling Bavarian guide, assured us. Mozart's dad, the golfer Bernhard Langer and engineers Rudolf Diesel and Willy Messerschmitt all hail from the town and take their places on its heritage trail, although citizens did seem a little coy about discussing the latter.

Travellers have trodden the "Romantic Road" as a sort of mini-Grand Tour since the 18th century. We are not talking about loveydovey romance but the romance of the past — castles, kings and chivalry, all enhanced by the majestic mountain scenery.

The foothills of the Alps began as soon as we left Landsberg. We crossed rolling hills of vineyards as clouds teased us with glimpses of rocky peaks pricking the horizon.

As we climbed into upper Bavaria the air became sharper and the roads more twisty. We wound through villages of wooden houses with steeply sloping roofs, huddled round blue and white maypoles. Every window was adorned with a box, ablaze with pink geraniums. we dropped down to the valley of the turquoise River Lech, tracing its meandering bank till we rounded a corner, and there, high



Linderhof Castle was modelled along the lines of a French chateau by King Ludwig II of Bavaria; he was enjoying an infatuation with the Bourbons at the time

above us, was a dazzling white castle floating on the clouds.

Anybody who has been to a Disney theme park will be familiar with Neuschwanstein. What I found utterly bizarre is that the Disney version is barely even a caricature of the castle it was modelled on. There it was, massive in scale, high on a craggy spur, its base hidden in swirling mist, and with Rapunzel-esque towers, spires and elongated turrets pointing skywards like intercontinental bal-

Who needs 20th-century fantasies? Here was the most elaborate architectural parody ever built, a "medieval" wonder created accorddish whims of King Ludwig II of Bavaria, and dwarfing the genuinely 12th-centthe valley below. Mad King Ludwig is a towering figure in Bavarinherited the throne in 1864 at the age of 19 and set about peppering his kingdom with the real-life fruits

of his fairy-tale dreams. He stood oft oin tall with long golden hair; he was gay; he had a demoniacal obsession with Richard Wagner, for whom he built palaces to perform in; he ran his court variously as a Chinese emperor or a medieval despot; he eschewed all the realities of state affairs; he emptied Bavaria's coffers and was eventually drowned in 1886 (almost certainly murdered) while swimming in a lake.

So when aid Ludwig visit Florida?" a woman with an unmistakable Texan accent asked loudly as we queued up with coachloads of ever, is this Renaissance palace's

American and Japanese tourists, to be whisked through the castle from salon to throne room to bed chamber on what proved to be a disappointing tour. As with its Disney replica, Neuschwanstein's interior fails to live up to the edifice's glittering promise.

preferred Linderhof Castle. modelled on a French château and built during a period of Ludwig's infatuation with the Bourbons. The fountains, formal garden, Baroque facade, riots of gilt stucco and chambers hung with tapestries are bewitching, although the vast grotto hewn out of a hillside and complete with false The most incongruous thing, howlocation amid the deeply Teutonic villages of upper Bavaria.

An old Bavaria hand I was

travelling with seemed able to plot our co-ordinates in the region according to the fare in the nearest bierkeller. For instance, he declared us well and truly south of the "sausage equator" (otherwise known as the Danube), once the thick, fatty wurst gave way to spicy, finger-like specimens. Deeper into the Alps, grey sausages are served floating in hot water and contain brains and offal.

What is almost impossible to avoid are huge portions of meaty food, generally served by larger-than-life lederhosen-clad waiters stereotype. The only alternative I leaden diet was to order portions of wild mushrooms from the Black Forest — dainty pfifferlingen (chanterelles) and succulent stein pilz

(ceps). The only trouble was that it was automatically assumed that if I had eaten nothing more substantial than fungi, then I would certainly require a Helmut Kohl-sized slab of Dampnudeln (steamed dumpling smothered in something sticky and sickly sweet) with a dollop of whipped cream. No wonder Bavarians need their health spas.

We finished our journey at Bad Tolz, a town full of people who were deadly earnest about every kind of therapeutic treatment from bathing in radiation-rich water to any of a clearly was not the sort of place you roll up at just for the fun of it. As

FACT FILE

The author travelled with the Bayarian Tourist Board.

Moswin Tours (0116-271 9922) arranges tours of the region. A week's fly-drive. including flights, car hire and B&B in two and three star hotels, costs £550-£650 per person, based on two sharing. A week's escorted tour is £598, including flights, travel by coach and half-board accommodation.

Further information from the German National Tourist Office, Nightingale House, 65 Curzon Street, London WIY 8NE (0171-493 0080).

■ The Travel Bookshop (0171-229 5260) recommends A Model Childhood, by Christa Wolf (Virago, £8.99). The Fox in the Attic, by Richard Hughes (Harvill, £8.99). Ludwig II and His Dream Castles, by Ludwig Merkle (Bruckmann Verlag, £13.35). Bavaria, by Rodney Bolt (Cadogan, £14.99).

poked a curious nose into the baths: "I used to come here free, every vear, for treatments which our health service paid for."

Alas, state-paid holidays at spas are fast becoming a thing of the past and the European monetary union is blamed. The cut is one of the many austerity measures designed to ready Germany for the venture. Frau Schmidt explained. "It is a terrible shame. But I can accept it, because I am very, very European. What we have to do is embrace each other so close that we cannot hit each other. Not in this century or ever again.

I declined to take her literally just then, so I merely smiled, enjoying



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Led a merry dance around the forest with wolves

snow was falling from the dense cover of trees like rain and the cold was eating through my inadequate gloves. Yet the excitement of death was in the air as we followed the wolf prints around the remnants of the "Try and find the skull or a

hip bone, then we can work out its age," said Kevin Bush, who was leading our band of volunteers. "Oh, and some blood would be good as well."
Twelve of us had travelled with the British Trust for Conservation Volunteers from the UK to this forest in eastern Poland. While all of our motives differed, there was a common magnet: the wolf. Bialowieski is home to the Mammal Research Institute, which has a long-term study under way on the forest's collared, which enables researchers to monitor their travels and the packs they belong to without disturbing them. But it is labour-intensive work as 24-hour contact is needed for five days every month. This is where the volunteers step in

Bialowieski is the last relic of primeval lowland forest that 10,000 years ago covered



European grey wolf at Poland's Bialowieski national park

Europe. Its continued existence owes much to the tyrannical urges of the powers that across this part of Poland. In each case, while they have been laying waste to all the surrounds, a fragment of perverted humanity has emerged to save the heart of this forest. Herman Goering was so imessed by the hunting here that he declared it sacrosanct. Before him, Polish kings and anteed its survival. Now the great, ancient cathedral-like trees are protected in a national park, which is listed as a Biosphere Reserve as well as a World Heritage site. Despite all this, its future is still

debated by logging firms. Before letting us loose, Mr Bush, a BCTV regional coordinator, ensured we had

been trained to a standard enabling us to collect reliable data. The first, and most important lesson, was in the whereabouts of the border with Belorussia. The border guards are not amused by vagrant researchers, and the last volunteers who went astray had to be rescued with a large number of bottles of vodka.

thorough training in map and compass skills was given among the snow-covered trees. Lunch was meagre, if sustaining. basics of radio-tracking. While an invaluable aid to research, we were also introduced to its shortcomings. Day and night

slightest hint of a radio-collared wolf. But not so much as

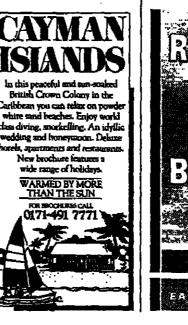
wolf tracks in the fresh snow it set my heart pounding. We worked in a shift pat tern. Four six-hour shifts

meant that when we were not radio-tracking we could be searching the forest tracks for footprints, droppings or a kill. One morning we arrived at breakfast to the excited faces of the night shift. A signal: at last we had the wolves in our grasp. Or not, as the case proved to be a slight error on the part of Joep, the coorganiser of the trip. A bison with a similar radio-frequency was to blame. Eventually we did make

contact. It was dark and bitterly cold as we tried to pick up the signal of a wolf named Bura. The previous shift had found her in the northeastern corner of the park. In the time it took us to get there, she had moved. It was a fraught four and a half hours before we eventually re-established contact. She was the alpha female with the pack and they had moved a great distance. Re-lieved, I returned to the hotel.

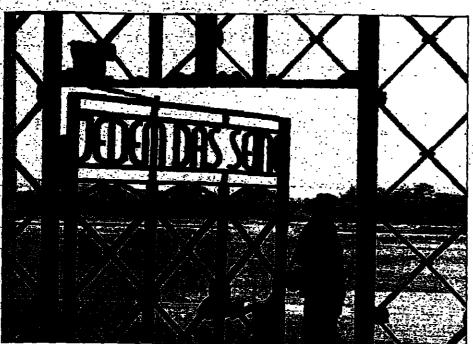
The following morning we emerged to the grim faces of the last shift. The wolves we had spent so long trying to find had gone where we could not follow. Across the border

Continued on next pag





and the uneasy mixture of cultural creativity and Nazi horror that is still to be found in Weimar



Light among the darkness

death camps is just four miles from the most giorious shrine of German liberal humanistic culture. Buchenwald and Weimar. Darkness and light. You can stroll in the pretty park where Goethe wrote his hymns to freedom. then drive up the hill to the

Before facing that challenge, it is worth spending time in Goethe's delightful Weimar in wooded Thuringia: Crammed with memorial plaques to men-of genius. Weimar (pop. 60,000) probably has the richest density of cultural history of any small town in Europe. thanks to its former ducal rulers who were eager patrons of the arts. Germany's first opera house was built here in 1696. Bach and Cranach lived and worked here, then Schiller, Liszt, Nietzsche ... the list

Above all, Goethe spent much of his life here. In his green-shuttered baroque: home we saw his library, his beloved garden where he tried to grow grapes for wine (not a success), and we walked to his us in 1919, but then rejected by toy-like summerhouse by the river, where he dallied with transferred to Dessau. Nazis

of one of the largest Nazi Shakespeare, the one European writer whom even the Germans acknowledge to be greater than their own Bard.

The GDR regime dutifully kept Weimar in aspic - a bit rundown but unspoilt. Now it has filled with boutiques, bistros and hotels, but has not lost its charm — even while, being frantically refurbished for 1999. Then, on the 250th anniversary of Goethe's birth, the 50th anniversary of the creation of the GDR and the tenth of the fall of the Berlin Wall, it will be Europe's

official annual City of Culture.

Despite its palaces and great paintings, its wealth of baroque and rococo, Weimar wears its cultural splendour lightly — a human-scale town of small cobbled squares and poetic vistas. Many of the homes of the great are now museums. We saw Liszt's grand piano, Nietzsche's li-brary, the church where Johann Herder preached. And we visited the new Bauhaus museum, in the house where this radical design movement was founded by Walter Gropi-

Weimar's stuffy citizenry and

the free-thinkers of the Bauhaus but now it has been reinstated in its birthplace.

On the square is the famous double statue of Goethe and Schiller beside the great theatre where Faust had its premiere in 1829, and where in 1919 the deputies of Germany's new parliament, fleeing riottorn Berlin, met to devise the liberal constitution that gave birth to the Weimar Republic.

ut the paradox is that most of Weimar's own citizens were not liberals and did not deserve Goethe. Weimar elected the Nazis to power locally in 1932, and in 1933 voted 60 per cent for Hitler. The writer Thomas Mann remarked: "The mixture of Hitlerism and Goethe [in Weimar] is particularly disturbing." In the market square Hitler

used to frequent the historic Elefant (where we enjoyed a Thuringian lunch of beef and dumplings). He set up an elite political school in Weimar - a reason why one of the first of the future concentration camps was built on the Buchenwald hill above the town. So the proximity is no coinci-



dence. The original gateway stands with its cryptic wrought-iron slogan, "Jedem das Seine" (to each his own). Beyond is a vast razed open space where 56,000 died, and a museum that tells the facts of the camp and its controversial

tracking wolves costs from

£645, excluding flights.

The GDR regime made it a memorial to the victims, but their museum - as I saw on a visit in 1985 - put the accent firmly on the sufferings of German Communists and Russian PoWs. There was no separate Jewish memorial, for the GDR disliked the state of

Israel and its links with Bonn. "The GDR rulers used Buchenwald as a shrine to justify the origins of their regime." an historian at the camp told me this year, "and anything that did not fit they rejected.

That bias has now been corrected. There is a new

Jewish memorial and another for gypsies killed in the camp and non-Communist martyrs are properly honoured.

The Puszta is

After the Berlin Wall fell. details began to emerge of the Soviet Army's camp on the same site for Nazi suspects in 1945-51. This had been totally

Open doors. Open hearts. Open minds. **Hungary**



FACT FILE

■ Weimar is eight hours by road from Calais. Lufthansa (0345 737747) (Lies to Frankfurt for £138, then 2½ hours by train (£63.30 return with German Rail). British Airways (0345 222(11) flies to Leipzig from £167, then one hour by train (£16.80 return). Cerman Rail (018)-390 8833) from Brussels via Cologne to Weimar for E110.50. Eurostar (0345 303030) to Brussels starts at £69 return. ■ Hotel Elefant (00 49 3643 8020), has double B&B from £71. Christliches Amalienhof (00 49 3643 5490) has double B&B, E52.

■ The Travel Bookshop (0171-229 5260) recomm Weimar Culture, by Peter Gay (Penguin, £8.99). Germany and the Germans, by John Ardagh (Penguin, £8.99).

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hushed up during the GDR's camp is being prepared for 1999. The hidden mass graves of its anonymous victims are marked by a phalanx of tall steel pillars in the beech-woods, looking rather beauti-ful. The festival's boldest feature is that the themes of Weimar culture and Buchenwald, good and evil, are to be intertwined. These few square miles, an official told me, "contain the darkest and brightest in German history, in human society. We must

confront it openly."

Some Weimarians are not so sure. In 1995, on the 50th anniversary of the camp's liberation, when the town used Hitler's pompous yellow downtown headquarters for an exhibition of works by death camp artists (mostly from Auschwitz), there were some angry protests. And 1999 seems likely to draw more. Why should we spoil our lovely cultural festival by dragging up guilt about Nawas one comment I heard, I wonder what Goethe would have said.

JOHN ARDAGH



Continued from page 18 into Belorussia. And that was it for the tracking. Frustration was evident in the faces of the researchers. Here they had the help they needed, willing and able researchers, and yet the



with LOT Polish Airlines (0171-580 5037), which flies

between London and Warsaw from about ■ The British Trust for Conservation Vol-

unteers (01491 839766) runs a number of trips in Britain and abroad. In Poland, work is centred on the Bialowieza forest, home of the European bison, pine martens, beavers, lynx and wolves. A holiday spent radio-

■ The author travelled

Next departures are Sept 29, Dec 20, Feb 25 and May 23. For further information, call the Polish National Tourist Office on 0171-580 8811.

The Travel Bookshop (0171-229 5260) recommends: Heart of Europe, by Norman Davies (OUP, £11.99), Exit into History, by Eva Hoffman (Minerva, £6.99); Poland, by Sebastian Wormell (Pallas, £16.95).

wolves were failing to cooperate. Surprisingly, there were no complaints from the volunteers about the lack of contact with wolves. The experience of knowing that the work we were doing was valuable, plus the beauty of

the forest, made it worthwhile. For those with a naturalist bent, there was so much to marvel at. There are oak trees unlike anything I seen before.
Here they grow tall and proud, bolting for the light before unfurling their canopy. Then there was the sight of a red squirrel with tuited ears, followed by a huge shadow

moving across the track. As I ran towards it I had no idea how wild European bison are supposed to react to an out-ofbreath ecologist. Luckily this great heast was satisfied sim-

ply to observe me. We did meet a wolf. Three years ago, as a pup, Kazan was dug from his den and sold as a pet in Bialystok. Wolves do not make good pets and after six months he had devastated the apartment in which he was kept and was dumped at the national park. He could not be released back into the wild, because he had no

experience with other wolves.

So he was put in an old aviary. For two years he has suffered here, but there is hope.

When we have raised enough money, we are going convert the old deer paddock into a wolf-proof enclosure," Mr Bush said. We also hope to rescue a female wolf from a zoo in Poland to provide company

for Kazan. The satisfaction of seeing Kazan allowed to run with a partner was all the more sweet knowing that we have helped to open his horizons.

HUGH WARWICK

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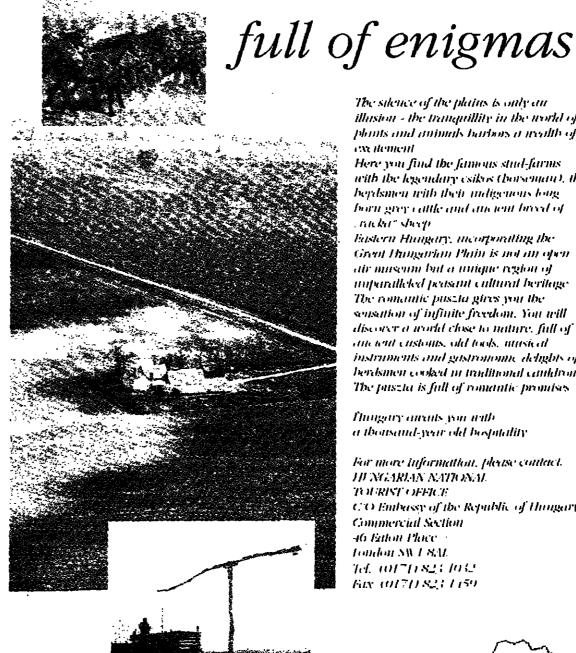
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Spain: All you need is a stout stick and a wine glass for a walk through the undulating vineyards of Rioja

مكذا من الاصل



Vineyards near Logrono where the landscape descends in broad terraces, valleys and streams from the foothills of the Sierra de Cantabria. The red wine of last year's harvest is fruity and has at least 12 or 13 degrees of alcohol

A backpack and plenty of bottle

icnic time in Rioja Mayesa, northern Spain. A morning of me the pleasure of this agreematter. Using a method I like to fancy I invented, I drink a bottle of mineral water, then slice the top three inches off the bottle, thus providing myself with an adequate, if less than elegant, beaker.

The red wine of last year's harvest is cool, fruity, has - I would guess - at least 12 or 13 degrees of alcohol and is the perfect accompaniment to the buttered crust of the delicious wholemeai loaf from La Tahona. artesania del pan, in Logrono and a Pyrenean cheese which resembles

intended. Counting upon the undulating dirt roads that provide easy marching in this country of vines, cereals and evergreen scrub, the calculabefore the shops closed for hours, I would have covered the ten miles between Oyon and the charming hilltop town of Laguardia, where I would have bought wine and, in under an hour, have been seated in the foothills of the

Sierra de Cantabria. Chance ruled otherwise. I had progressed only two or three miles from Oyon and was studying the small scale motoring map that was all I had been able to buy when another walker appeared over the hill. Like me, he had a stick

further on from where we tell me whether the right or left fork would be best for Laguardia? With pleasure, but it was the right direction for him, too. Perhaps we could walk together?

Two hours later, in the cellar of a modest little house in El Espino. I was eating olives and sampling the 1995 vintage made from some two dozen vines by one of the most simple methods - the juice run from an ancient hand press and fermented in an oak cask. Would I not stay to lunch, when we might taste

one or two other wines of the village, where there were seven wine-makers?

The kindness was touching. the sincerity not in doubt. Nevertheless, I explained. with little more than six or seven miles of walking behind me I had as many more to cover if I was to end the day with a clear conscience and a sense of achievement. Would I, then, at least accept a bottle to take with me? Knowing that it would now be too late to buy anything in Laguardia, I accepted without demur.

Lunch in El Espino would have been fun, but I had no regrets about this picnic on a hillside just south of Laguardia. Wine country or not, such moments are one of the walk-er's most valued delights. Even allowing for a certain am seeing for the first time. Descending in folds and broad terraces and valleys and streams from the Sierra de Cantabria, behind me, to the north bank of the Ebro, the land is not so devoted to the vine, nor are the vineyards so wide and so neatly ordered, as to suggest a viticultural park.

Nor is it cluttered by inva-

sive urbanisation. Villages are few and for the most part appealingly situated, and although well endowed with architectural testaments to a past reaching to Roman times. or earlier, are in general innocent of the sort of selfconscious and contrived prettiness to be found in many a better known wine region of Europe. Yecora, El Ciego. Briones, La Bastida, San Vicente de la Snoopier; and above all, Laguardia. Churches - as often as not built as much for defence as for worship - stand proud above 18th century mansions, medieval

hovels and castle ruins. In cobbled squares markets are held much as they must

land is still essentially rustic. learn that in many cellars grapes are still pressed with the bare feet and vinified in open troughs hewn from the So far as commercial wine-

making in Rioja is concerned, it is a seriously misleading impression. Picturesquely to be seen in the bodegas of Haro and Logrono are rank upon rank of casks representing more oak than one might have believed could still exist in all the hardwood forests of the old and New Worlds put together. but high tech is well under-stood and widely practised, and the tendency to over-oak the reds seems far from persisting as a general rule.

Tonight at dinner I shall have no difficulty in procuring a local wine of pleasing distinction that has spent no more than a few months in the wood. Not that I shall be in a pernickety frame of mind; it will have been altogether too good a day for that.

NIGEL BUXTON

P&O Fernes (0990 980980) has a 35-hour crossing sailing twice a week. Ten-day return fares start at £285 for a car and two adults. Cabins £50 each way, extra.

■ Brittany Ferries (0990 360360) sails twice weekly from Plymouth to Santander (24hour crossing) with low season return lares from £391 for a car, two adults and cabin.

The Hotel Los Agustinos in Ham (00.34 941 31 1308) charges £125 per might for 2

opposite the hotel is knowledgeable and helpful. Maps: 1-50,000 Spanish Military Survey, sheets Haro & Logrono, Order from

Stanfords, Long Acre, London WC2 (0171-836 1321). £5.95 (E7.25 by post). ■ The Travel Bookshop (0171-229 5260) recomm

The Face of Spain, by Gerald Brenan (Penguin, 6.99). The Foods and Wines of Spain, by Penelope Casas (Penguin, £16). The New Spaniards, by John Hooper (Penguin, £8.99).

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Sheikh for St. Catherine's Monastery. Aqaba, Jordan for Petra, Safaga, Egypt for Luxor, Karnak & Valley of the Kings. OAI Sea. OSuez, Egypt for Cairo & Pyramids. Transit Sucz Canal. SAshdod, Israel for Jerusalem & Bethlehem. @At Sea. OKusadasi, Turkey for Ephesus O Athens. Greece for City tour & Aeropolis and return

The above gives just a brief outline. In most ports of call there is a choice of excursions available.

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WORD WATCH

Answers from page 25 NICOLO

(c) A type of onyx. The aphetic form of oniccolo, a diminutive from the Latin onyx. "The variety of onyx known as nicolo, consisting of a layer of a bluish tint over black." PIEPOWDER

(c) Wayfaring, itinerant, from the Anglo-French and Anglo-Latin pede-pulverosus dustyfooted. Hence a travelling man, a wayfarer, especially an itinerant merchant or trader. Chiefly used in the Court of Piepowders, a summary court formerly held from the 14th century at fairs and markets to administer justice among itinerant dealers and others temporarily present. "Dost think that John Bull will be tried by Piepowders?"

POMADA (a) An exercise of vaulting upon or over a horse by placing one hand on the pommel of the saddle. From the Italian for the pommel of a saddle. pomo. Aubrey. Brief Lives, 1697: "He was very active. He did the pomado in the saddle of the third horse in

his armour." NESCIENCE

(a) Absence or lack of knowledge, ignorance. Or an instance of this. From necientia a late Latin noun from nescire to be ignorant. "The miserable fraction of Science which united Mankind, in a wide universe of Nescience. has acquired."

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Tour/lunch at Lesedi Cultural Village. Day 3: Breakfast at hotel then tour to Kruger National Park.

Accommodation Malelane Lodge (or similar) for two nights. Breakfast at hotel then full day game viewing. Breakfast at hotel then travel through Swaziland to Zululand

overnight at Hluhluwe Hilltops (or similar) for overnight.

Breakfast at hotel then continue tour to Dundee via Vryheid along the battlefields route. Accommodation for two hights at The Royal Inn. Day 7: Breakfast at hotel. Today we visit the isandhivens and Talana

Breakfast at hotel then continue to Durban. Included is a city tour of Durban and the craft markets. Day 9: Breakfast at hotel. Morning at leisure. Then transfer out to airport for

flight back to London via Johannesburg. For a copy of the brochure please return the coupon below to: TravelPlanners, FREEPOST MB 1949, Orpington, Kent, BRS 3BR or Tel: 0990 280083 (please quote tour name)

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AROUND THE WORLD: A WEEKEND GUIDE

Hear Verdi on the Nile

A SPECIAL production of Aida in Luxor in October marks the 125th

A SPECIAL production of Aida in Luxor in October marks the 125th anniversary of the opera's world premiere. First performed in Cairo in 1872, the opera's was composed by Verdi to celebrate the opening of the Sucz Canal. Set in Memphis and Thebes, now the Nile's most popular fioliday resort of Luxor, it is to be performed against the 3,500-year-old backshop of Queen Hasshepsin's Temple, the title role shared by Aprile Millo and Wilhelmenia Eernandez.

Cox & Kings (0171-873-5000) has a four-night break for £1.195, flying to and from Cairo. B&B accommodation, a category'A ticket to the opera and excarsions in Cairo and Luxor. Prospect Music and Art Tours (0181-995-2151) offers a choice of return flights to Luxor with a week's B&B hotel accommodation for £895, or flights and a night in Cairo followed by five nights in Luxor, returning from Aswan, for £950. Excursions and opera lickets are included in both tours.

Cruising along with the cargo

IT WAS in response to cruise we go to sea on a real ship, without dressing up, entertainment and going ashore en masse?" that lain C Cameron, a former cruise captait began to organise passages on plorling ships, where passen-gers are welcome to join the voyage but the cargo comes first

On a traditional Fyfie's banana boat, a round-trip carrying cargo from Portsmouth to Big Creek in Belize and Cortes in Honduras, returning with a hold full of fruit 28 days later, costs £1.980 (a oneway trip is £1.000). The ships have three twin-bedded cabins with private facilities and passengers dine with the British officers. Sailing from Felixstowe,

23,000 tonne container ship with indoor swimming pool, sauna and library can carry eight passengers for two months on an indian Ocean route via Marseilles, the Suez Canal, Dar es Salaam, Mombasa, Mauritius, the Seychelles. Madagascar and back to the UK for about £3,400. These and other trips from Cargo Ship-Voyages (01473 736265).

FOR the over-25s with a penchant for fast cars. Loch Torridon Hotel (0)445 791242) in the southwest Scottisi Highlands offers two-night breaks with accor dinner and breakfast, plus a Fer rari, Aston Martin, Lot Porsche or Austin Healey to

drive. Those flying to Inverness, the nearest airport, will have the car meet them. The cost (excluding flights) is £850.

Back to nature

ENVIRONMENTAL charity the Field Studies Council (01743 850522), which runs nearly 40 overseas study courses for both all-round enthusiasts and serious naturalists, introduces "The Elu-sive Canary Islands" in January. Better known, perhaps, as the habitat of the Greater Pot-Bellied Lager Lout, the hinterland of Tenerife can boast a remarkable range of scenery from subtropical paim groves to pristine lava fields and pine forests. Strange little Lanzarote, blown up by volcanic activity, is also on the itinerary of the ten-night fully inclusive tour which costs £1,300.

Terminal time

THOSE who have had to suffer the cramped horrors of Europe's busiest summer airport — Palma in Majorca (Britannia alone has 84 flights a week during the high season) - will be relieved that the new £200 million terminal, intended to cope with up to 12,000 passengers an hour, is at last

functioning properly.

There may, however, be fewer Brits to enjoy the luxury of air conditioning, enough seats and baggage facilities, and escalators that work Last year saw a decrease of 7 per cent in the number of British visitors to the Balearic Islands (2.6 million, the vast majority to Majorca), while



Queen Hatshepsut's Temple in Luxor is the backdrop to a production of Aida to mark the 125th anniversary of the opera's world premiere

the number of German holiday-makers has increased to 3.6 million. And the trend away from hotel-based holidays continues. More than 51 per cent of Britons stayed in apartments or houses last year, as against 47.7 per cent

Under 26 only

FOR an annual payment of just E7, those lucky enough to be under 26 years of age can get substantial discounts on flights worldwide and on Eurostar jour-

neys, 10 per cent off travel gear from YHA Adventure Shops, savings of up to £5 on Rough Guides, cheaper international phone calls and voice-mail facilities, as well as reductions on some accommodation, museums and galleries across Europe. For more information contact Under 26 (0171-823 5363).

JILL CRAWSHAW'S TRAVEL TIPS

CITY breaks to the Polish port of Gdansk, now celebrating its millennium, are offered by Fregata Travel (0171-451 7000). A four-night B&B break costs £329 in May and June, when events include the opening of the 1,000 Years of Gdansk Exhibition, the Millennium Sailing Cup and an Inter-national Organ Music Festival.

Choose Corfu

MORE favourable exchange rates, an expensive facelift for its capital and much-needed improvements to its airport could attract British holidaymakers back to Corfu this summer.

Well away from the moussaka and chips belt, villa expert C.V. Travel (0171-581 0851) offers two weeks for the price of one on some holidays at the end of May. A fortnight in a villa sleeping four

in the hamlet of Kaminaki. a minute away from the beach, costs £325 per person, which includes flights, transfers, a food hamper and maid service.

Touch of class

DETAILS such as private transfer from airport or station and useful extras add a touch of class to the new short-break programme from Kirker Holidays (0171-231 3333). On Barcelona breaks, from £299 for two nights, the firm includes a 100-peseta coin (about 45p), the key to the airport's luggage trolleys on arrival. In Amsterdam (from £209). Kirker can arrange a trip to The Hague with tickets to a concert at the Brahms Festival commemorating the centenary of the composer's death. A carnet of 10 Metro tickets comes with short breaks to Paris where prices start at E159 for two nights by Eurostar.

Bargain buses

THE further you go on a Eurolines (01582 404511) coach, the cheaper it gets; the regular adult return fare to Moscow costs £206 for the 3,946-mile round trip, 5.2p per mile, while to Paris the £43 return fare for the 524 miles works out at 8.2p per mile. Warsaw offers the best bargain: the adult return costs £89, the distance there and back is 2,184 miles, with a rate per mile of just over 4p. The under-26s, and any over-60s with stamina, get reductions of about 10 per cent on these fares.

MUSHROOM addicts can enjoy a special autumn break organised by VFB Holidays (01242 240338), with fungi forays into the wooded Ardennes led by an expert. There will be a chance to cook and cat the spoils later. The three-night half-board break is based at Charleville-Mezières, and costs £233 including coach travel.

TRAVEL NEWS

Airtours launches timeshares

■ AIRTOURS begins selling timeshares on its £26 million development in Florida this week. The company, which built a reputation as a low-cost package tour operator, is convinced that timeshare will prove to be the next big growth area for British tourists. The tide of opinion has changed," said David Crossland, chairman of

"With no initial deposit, a tenday cooling-off period, payments over a flexible period and the opportunity of swapping time-shares around the world, it is bound to be of enormous appeal.

Airtours predicts that when all 19 accommodation blocks, each containing 32 apartments, are completed they will attract up to 125,000 holidaymakers a year.

The average price of a timeshare on the development known as Oasis Palms near Orlando, which will be ready in November, will be £6,800, which can be borrowed through a building society on an unsecured loan. Further developments are likely.

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Potential buyers will be given the "soft sell" in Airtours package brochures, in Going Places travel agents, on board Airtours flights and in their resort hotels.

READERS ringing around for holiday brochures to France are taking pot luck on what will arrive and when, a new survey has shown. Of 100 operators called, half ensured their brothures arrived within two days, and 75 per cent within four days.

But 11 had failed to send a

brochure almost two months later including Eurocamp, Keycamp and Just France. The quality of response was also random. The majority of brochures had no accompanying letter and, of those who did include a letter, fewer than half were personalised.

The survey, by researcher Peter Hunt, gave top marks to one small operator who included a two-page handwritten letter with the brochure. Small is often beautiful.

TRYANAIR (054) 569569) has sold more than 20,000 tickets at the lead-in fare of £19 on a new route between London Stansted and Prestwick in Scotland.

From Susan Dennis, Crawley Down, West Sussex: I have just returned from a family fortnight in Ellat and would recommend Israel to anyone as an ideal family destination. However, there

was one big disappointment when I planned to visit Egypt. I was turned back at the border because the childrenwere on my passport - but were staying with my hus-band in Eilat. Even before leaving Britain, I was not made aware of any passport regulations, otherwise I could have made arrangments for the children. I feel sure I cannot be the only busy parent who would want to do interesting cultural trips without the family, who much preferred to have a day on the beach rather than a four-hour drive to some ruins. There was no mention in the tour operator's brochure of these restrictions

for leaving Israel. The Egyptian Consulate says: There is some misunderstanding. There should be no problem for this lady to travel ithout her children. But the best way to ensure there is no



Beware border bungle

the UK, or in our consulates in Aqaba or Eilat, and insist it is for an individual."

From Mr M Warner. Woodbridge, Suffolk: Flaving recently returned from a magical holiday in New Zealand, I must write to express my disappointment in the article of April 5, which

failed to transmit the many superb facets of a holiday in a country more beautiful than I dared to believe. To base a page on six days in the country is unfair - New Zealand is the best holiday destination I have been to in many years of travelling. Do go, but keep it clean for my next visit.

From Audrey Binyon,

Cobham, Surrey:
Joanna Mitchell (Weekend.
April 19) complained of the £7
tip requested by her Nile
guide. My husband and I
went on a Nile trip and were
much did all the training guide did all the tipping so that we were not pestered. I noticed the passing of coins each time we went through a gate or door, so that we were not asked for anything. The guide would pounce on any of us who did try to give, as he had already done so.

We welcome letters on holiday travel. Send them to: Letters, Travel Department, The Times, I Pennington Street, London El 9XN or fax 0171-782 5124.

Jules Verne fights back

SIX weeks ago, a letter in Weekend complained of a holiday to Cuba with the tour operator Voyages Jules Verne. The Glazers, of Hadley Wood. Hertfordshire, cited flight delays, a filthy hotel room and lack of response to complaints. Since then, Weekend has received more than 40 letters from readers concerning VJV brickbats outnumbering

bouquets by three to one. The company's marketing director, Allan Jones, defended his firm by pointing out that it does not sell simple package holidays; it sells complicated itineraries to countries such as China, the Indian sub-continent, Latin America and South Africa. It was the first UK tour operator into Aswan, Costa Rica and along the Silk Road, It has earned a reputation for being able to undercut long-haul rivals on price, in many cases by hundreds of pounds. As Holiday firm under fire answers complaints from its critics

one reader, Mr J. Booth of Lutterworth, Leicestershire, pointed out, his VJV tour of the palaces of Rajasthan in January was at least £600 cheaper than a similar tour with another company.

The company is able to sell cheaply partly because it sells direct, mainly through newspaper advertising, thus saving commissions to travel agents. It has only a small office staff and usually charters aircraft rather than using scheduled departures. It uses Monarch and Air 2000 charter planes, which have less leg room than scheduled aircraft. This has given rise to a number of complaints, particularly on flights lasting several hours. "Monarch must have been designed for midgets," wrote Ida Staples of Huntingdon, Cambridgeshire.

VJV made a mistake when it advertised flights to Havana, Cuba, for 1996-97. Some passengers found that instead of a ten-hour flight, they had to endure a journey double that time, via Gandor and Costa Rica, on a single-aisle

Monarch 757 aircraft. VJV hopes to charter a larger aircraft for Cuba and Costa Rica next winter. Using charters can also mean changes to itineraries

within days or weeks of depar-

ture as non-full flights are

consolidated. Such changes have also brought the wrath of passengers upon VJV. The company, which marks its 20th year of trading and

travelling next year, admits



Allan Jones: defensive

that last season, when it carried 60,000 passengers. was particularly fraught. A strike by pilots in Zim-babwe, the closure of Agra airport and the disruption at UK airports caused by the IRA are cited. On an Easter cruise around the Mediterranean, 100 VJV passengers signed a complaints petition, wrote Jennifer Marley of Woking.

without exception, readers praised the skill, knowledge and attitude of guides and drivers used by VJV. And with 50 per cent of customers being repeat business, many cus tomers seem satisfied. Another strong area of criti-

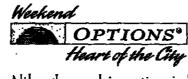
cism from readers was in how VJV handles complaints often not responding to faxes. letters and phone calls. Some people have used ABTA's conciliation service, which fined VJV twice last December, a total of £1,250, for breaches of conduct.

VJV said: "We only have a complaint ratio of 2 or 3 per cent. But nowadays people are much more prone to complain. Unfortunately, we are compared to companies who operate a simple two flights and hotel package."

• The Travel Editor now considers correspondence related to VIV to be closed.



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Britain: A wander through the Oxfordshire lanes immortalised by the author of Lark Rise to Candleford

مكذا من الاصل



Flora Thompson: observant eye

landscape lives on its surrounding heath had been enclosed, and Queenie, the Timms's neighbour, another survi-Juniper Hill is still a tiny hamlet

Flora's

here you are! the country doctor said when Flora Timms was born in the Oxfordshire hamlet of Juniper Hill during a fierce snowstorm on December 5, 1876. "Here's the person who has caused all the bother. Let us hope she will prove worth it!

Millions of appreciative readers all over the world believe that she did. A group of them will be gathering at Liphook Library in Hampshire on May 21, the 50th anniversary of her death, to do her honour. For Flora Thompson (her married name) died in 1947, having produced in the last eight years of her life one of the great classics of English country writing — her autobiographical trilogy Lark Rise (published in 1939). Over to Candleford (1941) and Candleford Green (1943), which were issued in 1945 as the one-volume Lark Rise to

Flora Thompson was a loner, an onlooker with a sometimes gentle, sometimes sharply observant eye and a near miraculous gift for and a hear miraculous gui for recall and for sifting out the wheat of memory from the chaff. As the curate diarist Francis Kilvert with Clyro, or Laurie Lee with Slad in Cider with Rosie, she painted her native Juniper Hill — under the guise of "Lark Rise" — in vivid colours, breathing new life into the farm workers and small tradesmen farm workers and small tradesmen who had inhabited its cottages during her childhood.

She did the same for "Candleford", an amaigam of the nearby towns of Bicester, Banbury and Buckingham, and for "Candleford Green", the village of Fringford three miles from Juniper Hill where she went at the age of 14 to work as an assistant in the post

office-cum-forge.
Among the characters Flora Thompson so subtly and brilliantly brings to life are self-sufficient old Sally, who could remember Lark Rise in the early 19th century before

vor from an earlier age, who as a young wife served her husband a pie containing the belt he had beaten her with, and in old age observed the country custom of telling her bees of his death. Readers come to know kindly Uncle Tom, the Liberal shoemaker of Candleford and sharp, stylish Dorcas Lane, the postmistress of

Candleford Green. Part of Flora Thompson's genius lay in her ability to draw scenes and characters in minute detail, illuminated by homely yet striking phrase-making. The chalky surface of the turnpike road was "thin pale mud, like uncooked batter; a night-time pig killing with its mud and blood, flaring lights and dark shadows, was as savage as anything to be seen in an African jungle"; an awkward lover at a dance sat there all the evening, like a great gowk, in his light-grey Sunday suit, with his great red hands hanging down between his knees, and a crysanthemum in his buttonhole as big as a pancake".

But Lark Rise to Candleford has incalculable value, too, as a social document. It is a portrait of rural peasant society at the point of metamorphosis — the "Old Eng-land" that vanished within 30 years of Flora Thompson's childhood.

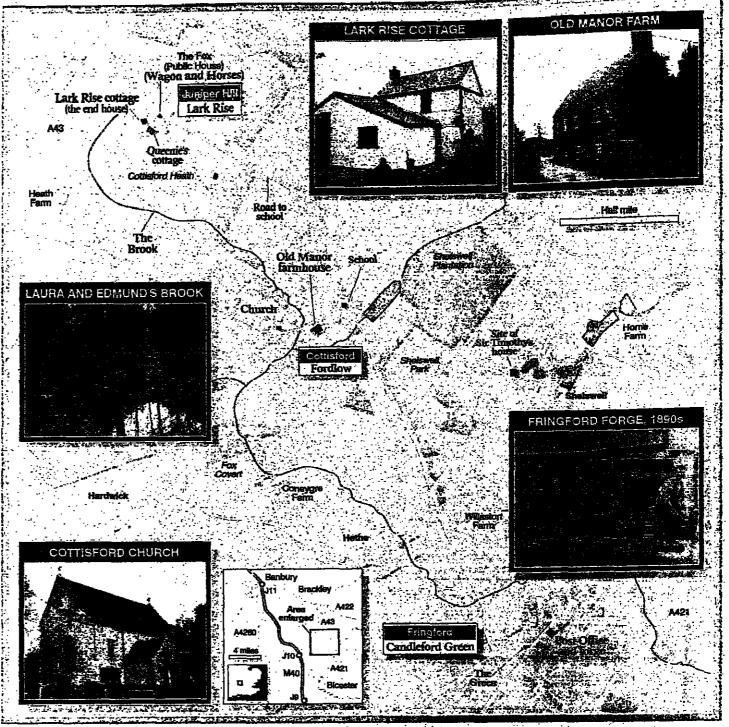
Great changes have swept across the north Oxfordshire countryside in the 100 years since Flora lived at Juniper Hill. But you can still walk along country lanes and footpaths from Lark Rise to Candleford Green and recognise most of the little rural stages on which her formative years were played out. The greatest physical change is to the A43 Oxford Road that passes the entrance to the hamlet. Flora knew it as a deserted, dusty white highway to nowhere, caught between the ages of the stagecoach and the car. Today it roars and

rushes, a black Tarmac torrent of speeding cars and lorries.

of thatched and slate-roofed cottages surrounded by a rutted track. These days many of their gardens have been infilled with bungalows. The end house where Laura (Flora's alter ego) and her brother Edmund (Edwin Timms) were brought up, now named Lark Rise, stands on the right at the end, humble and withdrawn like the author herself. In front is Queenie's small-windowed cottage. The Fox pub (Flora's Wagon and Horses) fronts today's Tarmac road. Here the men would gather to sing and yarn over their hard-earned halfpints. The Fox has recently closed temporarily, everyone hopes.

n the mile-long straight road to the village of Cottisford ("Fordlow", where Flora and her brother walked daily to school) you can hear larks singing above this low-lying, corn-growing country-side. Down in a dip runs the brook where Laura and Edmund rejoiced over finding white violets on their way home from school. The old school attended by Flora stands exotically altered - at Cottisford village crossroads. The ancient manor farmhouse, where the Lark Rise men's employer "God a mighty" (as they called him) lived, crouches end-on to the village road, as does the towerless church — "a tiny place, about the size of a barn". From their pew Edmund and Laura, during tedious sermons, would gaze out of the open church door as birds, bees and butterflies flew past outside. Edwin Timms was killed during the First World War and his name is the last on the Roll of Honour on the wall above the Timms's family pew.
In Fringford (Candleford Green)

the triangular village green lies under a huge Oxfordshire sky. The squire's mansion at Shelswell Park,



to which Flora delivered the mail and where she was teased by Sir Timothy's footmen - has vanished. but the stable block endures. The thatched post office where Flora worked and lived with Dorcas Lane still stands in Main Street. Here Flora was told by a gypsy woman that she would be loved by people she would never see; a wonderfully accurate prophecy.

CHRISTOPHER SOMERVILLE The 50th Anniversary Gathering will be on May 21 at noon at

Liphook Library, Hampshire. Readings from Flora Thompson's writings will be given by David Wynn and Brenda Adams of the Bunbury Theatre Company. For more information ring 01420 511505.

In Brad 191803.

■ Reading: Lark Rise to Candleford by Flora Thompson (Penguin Modern Classics).

■ B&B: Yew Tree Cottage, Hinton-in-the-Hedges (01280 701641), Red Lion, Evenley (01280 703314).

Crewe Arms, Hinton-in-the-Hedges (01280 703314).

attractions:

Indscape attractions. Stowe Landscape Gardens (National Trust), 500 acres, 11 lakes, 32 garden temples designed by Vanbrugh. Kent. Gibbs (01280 822856). Rousham House, near Steeple Aston, is an inferimentalised, family-owned 17th-century house. Cantemporary furniture and pictures. Kent-designed gardens, Long-homed cattle herd (01869 34700). Crombaton. Pottery. Townend Farm, Croughton (01869 810299).

Banbury Tourist Office, 8 Horsefair, Banbury, Oxon OXI6 0AA (01295 259855).

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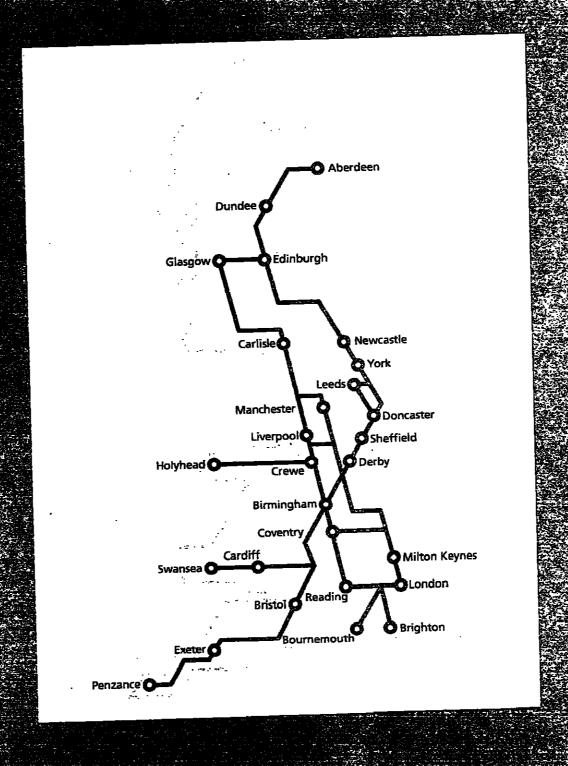
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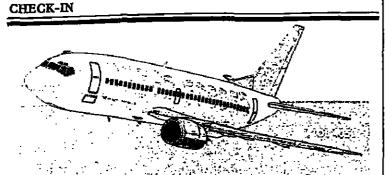
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CHESS

by Raymond Keene

DESPITE an exciting victory in the first game of his match against the IBM Deep Blue computer, Kasparov crashed badly in round two against the silicon monster. He chose an unwise defence; as Black, which condemned him to constant passivity, and just as he was about to leap out and force a draw, Kasparov lost all faith in his position and sensationally resigned.

Some experts have speculated, wildly, that the machine's play so closely resembled that of Karpov, his arch-rival, that Kasparov sim-ply lost heart. Others of us prefer to believe that the stress of defending against inexorable pressure caused his seeming breakdown.

W: Deep Blue, B: Kasparov Ruy Lopez Bb5 0-0

I question whether this is the right approach against Deep Blue. True, the closed defence to the Rny Lopez, which Kasparov adopted here, leads to a blocked situation in which computers do not usually excel. However, the published theory on this line is so extensive. and Deep Blue has been so well programmed with information; that it can traverse the opening phase by rote, as it were, simply following grandmaster examples and maintaining a slight edge without endangering its prospects by a strategic blunder.

b5 7 Bb3 d6 0-0 9 h3 h6 Re8 11 Nbd2 Bf8 Re1 Bd7 13 Ng3 12:Nf1

This is the kind of position where, left to its own devices. Deep Blue might have lashed out with the weakening advance g4, as in the first of these games. But with its memory banks packed with examples of grandmaster play, it can hardly go wrong. From now on, White dictates on both flanks.

Na5 14 Bc2 c5 Nc6 15 d5 Ne7-Ng6 18 Qd2 Nh7 17 Be3 Penetration down the a-file will

form a major theme.

Nh4 20 Nxh4 Qxh4 22 b4 24 Ra3

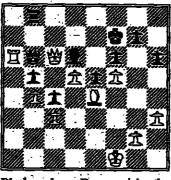


26 14. A well-timed advance. Either Black captures on 14, exposing his d6-pawn, or he allows White to take on e5, when White's d pawn will become passed.

26 ... Nf6 27 fxe5 dxe5 28 Qf1 Ne8 29 Qf2 Nd6 30 Bb6 Qe8 31 R3s2 Be7 32 Bc5 Bf8 33 Nf5 Further restricting Black's options 33 ... Bxd5 34 exd5 16 35 Bxd6 Bxd6 36 axb5 axb5

White is poised to smash into Black's position down the a-file. The text was widely praised at the time, blockading Black's final options as it does, but in the light of subsequent analysis, 37 Qb6 might have been better.

Ros2 38 Que2 Qd7 Rc7 40 Qb6 Rb7 Kf7 42 Qs6 Qc7 Qb6+ 44 Kf1 Rb8 41 Ra8+ Kf7 43 Qc6 Qb6



Black resigns. Depressed by the anaconda tactics of the machine, Kasparov now chose to capitulate.

Amazingly, he missed a certain draw with 45... Qe3 46 Qxd6 Re8 (the saving move) 47 Bf3 Qcl+ 48 Kf2 Od2+: however White plays, Black will ultimately gain a draw by perpetual check with his queen.

WINNING MOVE

No 1090

ACROSS: 4 Cupid 7 Panorama 8 Helm 9 Nautilus 10 Brassy

13 Scrawl 14 Insult 15 Reckon 18 Falstaff 19 Rife 20 Coalesce

DOWN: 1 Appear 2 Animus 3 Orkoey 4 Cantiele 5 Pull rank 6 Damsel 11 Absolute 12 Solstice 14 Infers 15 Ruffle 16 Cerise

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4 Gk. god; US moon-landing

Carolled; China dynasty (4)

10 Meet specifications (3.3,4)

13 Protect: (one's) domain (8)

Approximately (2.3.5)

WW2 plane (8)

programme (6)

Bird of peace (4)

12 Heavy shower (8)

18 A fish; find fault (4)

16 Dais (6)

19 · Nothing (4)

ACROSS

10WH (8)

15 Bravery (6)

22 Difficulties (8)

23 Accurate (4)

21 Siege

rapidly (4)

14 Unusual nem (6)

17 Personal effects (10)

28 Pre-dinner drink (8)

21 The Sign of the - (C.

SOLUTION TO NO 1089

Doyle); sounds like look out

! Spotty outbreak (4)

3 Carib. island, cap. Bridge-

8 Glide over surface: read

9 Chicken/wine stew (3,2.3)

11 Pygmalion musical (2.4.4)

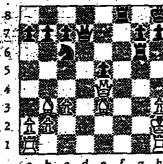
By Raymond Keene Black to play. This position is from the game Steinsapir - Estrin, Moscow 1949.

The black major pieces are poised menacingly on the open files leading into the white pos-ition. How did he now make the

most of this? Send your answer on a post-Street, London El 9XN. The first correct answer drawn on Thursday will win a year's subscription to the Staunton Society, which includes a free invitation to the annual dinner at Simpson's-inthe Strand. The answer will be published next Saturday.

Last week's solution: 1 Qh6+

Last week's winner: Mr Davies Winchester, Hampshire.



PUNCHLINE

READERS are invited to write an amusing caption for the cartoon (right), from The Strand Magazine (reproduced from Westminster Libraries, Sherlock Holmes Collection, Marylebone Library).

The cartoon will be printed again next week with a caption from those submitted.

Send caption suggestions on . a postcard with your name and address to: Strand Caption 51, Weekend, The Times. 1 Pennington Street, London El 9XN.

The Editor's decision is final. The closing date for entries is Wednesday, May 14.





At their first meeting the Cabinet realised that Mr Blair was a cross dresser

The winning caption for last week's cartoon (above) was submitted by Andrew Pellow of Barry, Glamorgan

WORD WATCHING

By Philip Howard

NICOLO a. The devil b. Pasta butterflies c. Onyx

PIEPOWDER a. Icing sugar

b. A type of wig c. A traveller

POMADA a. A vault b. A card game c. A lace scarf

NESCIENCE

a. Ignorance b. Excused science at Harrow c. An Alpine perennial

Answers on page 20

BRIDGE

by Robert Sheehan

AFTER A PLAY-OFF between the leading performers in the 1996/7 Premier League, the selectors have chosen Gus Calderwood and Dick Shek, Justin and Jason Hackett. and Gerald and Stuart Tredinnick to represent Great Britain in the 1997 European Championships. With Armstrong and Kirby, and Forrester and Robson unavailable, this looks about the best British team. It's the first time two sets of wins have represented Great Britain. The non-playing captain is Tony Priday, with David Burn

This is a hand from the play-off: East-West game IMPs Dealer East

+K076 ▼A1084 **⊕**QJ107 N **♦**8532 E 797532 +1097643 +K52 ร **₽**К93 ⊕ A J 10 **♥**KQJ6 **\$LD+**

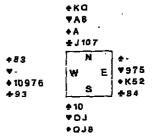
 ↑ A 8 5 Contract: Sox Hearts by South Lead: the five of spades

When Shek and Calderwood sat North-South, they had an artificial sequence in which South asked the questions and North showed a good three-suited hand short in diamonds. Calderwood (South) then settled for Six Hearts without having revealed anything of his own hand to the opposition.

West led the five of spades. Declarer played low from dummy. East played the nine and declarer won with the ace.

Declarer played the king

hearts and a low heart to the ten. West discarding diamonds. Now came the queen of clubs, run round to West, who won and returned the two of spades. Declarer won in hand, leaving this (South to play):



It seemed likely that West had four spades and East two - if West had three, he would have known that East was not ruffing, and might well have switched to a diamond. (Remember, West knew nothing of South's hand.) That meant declarer's only chance was to find East with at least two more clubs, so he played ace and another club. A fourth round of clubs left East helpless - if he ruffs declarer can overruff, cash his last trump and re-enter dummy with the ace of diamonds to draw East's last trump. If East discards a diamond. South discards a snade and leads a spade winner from dummy - if East ruffs it leads to the same position and if East continues to discard declarer eventually ends up with a high crossruff.

Had West exited with a diamond

an unexpecte

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after winning the king of clubs, a vital entry to dummy would have been removed for the ending I describe above.

COMPUTER GAMES AND PASTIMES

STILL no news of the release of Disney's spin-off game featured in its live action version of 101 Dalmatians. In the interim, this month the company launches 101 Dalmatians Print Studio and the 101 Dalmatians CD-Rom, the latest in Disney's Animated Storybook series.

Both are hits with children but adults will find themselves playing with the blissful print studio. The 19 personalised projects include certificates, colouring pages, growth charts, letterheads, faxes and invitations easily put together from a wide selection of cute puppy images, text, borders and backgrounds. The results, whether in colour or monochrome, are impressive but more freestyle handwriting fonts would improve it.

There is nothing Mickey Mouse Thirty-One - a luxury weekend for two in Rome Sponsored by GT nteractive and tying-in with Ancient Rome mystery on CD-Rom, SPQR, readers were asked to review any game in their collection. Typical of the high standard of entries was this from Edward Schroeder of Welwyn Garden City, who reviewed the Maxis PC game Simcopter. He wrote: "The graphics are brilliant, but the people you are catching look as if they have been decapitated. Game play is quite good. Missions range from fires to capsized-boat dramas.

Medical missions are enjoyable and you get a real sense of satisfaction knowing you have saved a bunch of pixels from certain death. The crime missions are completely different, however. You can dump a policewoman next to an arsonist and she will just stand there waving to you." George Smolinski, of

Countesthorpe, Lincolnshire,

enthused about BMG's Quest

for Fame. He wrote: "For any wannabe guitarists, in my case aged forty-something, There is nothing Mickey Mouse this is the programme. Plug about our star prize for Cyberspace in the virtual pick to the printer port and hit power-chords against a tennis racket. As your rhythm EKG displays the timing needed for your strumming patterns to climb the slippery rock and roll ladder. Practice in the bedroom leads to jam sessions with a garage band, gigs at increasingly large venues and, eventually, a recording contract. This is a brilliant interac-

by Tim Wapshott



enjoy playing with 101 Dalmatians

tive CD-Rom where success depends on nifty air-phrasing".

Burrows of Greenwich. south London, was another of the many reviewers of Tomb Raider. He compared Eidos Interactive's bestseller to television's Challenge Anneka. This is not the PC version of the TV show but you soon spot the similarities," he wrote. "Forget first-person perspective games,

Lara charging ahead as you follow and you must try to steer her in the right direction. The controls are simple but tricky to handle - to exploit Lara's amazing degree athleticism (including walking on her hands) requires practice and there is a home gym to help. Tomb

here you have the sight of

up, from bats to dinosaurs, and puzzle solving." And so to the winner. Congratulations to Allan Stillwell of Hayes, Middlesex, who opted for a refreshingly surreal spin on the task in hand. He reviewed Formula One, the racing sim from Psygnosis for the Sony

world is under threat from

"The

Raider is a mix of shot-em-

domination. You play the improbamea nera Di face the alien challenge over 17 missions set in various landscapes such as the barren wastes of Silverstone or claustrophobic Monaco. In these missions, Damon must chase the invading forces around a series of set courses, smashing them to oblivion with his

PlayStation, writing:

aliens and only you can stem their

craft, a task made easier as the alien tactics consist of thrashing along at a million miles an hour and then standing on the brakes at every bend. There is a hidden level. where the player may take the part of Nigel, a hero from the past with yet another silly name. No advantage is gained by doing this however, adding to the realism of the game."

Our ten runners up, who each scoop copies of SPQR and a trendy T-shirt, are the other entrants mentioned here plus Daniel Garner of Nuneaton, Martin Apps of Ashford, Kent, Catriana Kathaus of Northumberland, Simon Tondeur of Battersea, south London, and Paul Drew of Braintree, Essex, whose entries featured in earlier columns, as well as Robin Dainton of Churchdown, Gloucestershire and Steve Cole of London. Judging the competition was no easy task and, as always, thank you to all

This week's Top Tip comes from Angie Polkey of Emsworth, Hampshire. "Want to upgrade your old dot matrix printer but can't afford a laser model? Save money and instantly improve the quality of your documents by simply joining up the dots with a felt pen.

THE LISTENER CROSSWORD

No 3409: Alphabetical Jigsaw by Symphonia

THERE are 31 clues, one for each consonant and two for each vowel. Solutions either begin or end with the appropriate letter. Fit in the words where they will go. Splits appear at hyphens and where two separate words are formed.

Author's proof contains acknowledgement for Thatcher's material.

It's commonly very cold about the little tree in the The Bard's load is completely wrapped in

About to mislay a record containing a feature of a type of molecule. Senior member is to find an answer to passionate

The vitality or second sight required to score north of the border. E

One's about to strip Greek goddess and cause The way a student follows illness found in rivers.

The girl's come back well — that's brilliant. New Zealand winger grabs last of millet for

Caribbean rodent. Logical fallacies providing one with the return of lands held in absolute ownership

Guardian relinquishing pence exchanged for other currency.

Judge dug creating forceful vibration. Middle-Eastern soldier making a style of dance 2

Murdered without a trace of scruples and been buried.

Troy gathers up more Scottish litter.

Largely stupid person given counterfeit coin? That's very cruel!

Make the most of expenditure after old pit failed. Island king has sign about erected architectural

Supports insolence of the man in the field.

One of a litter gets another a source of antipyretic

Without a motive, returned a severe rebuff.

A flag's colour when there's mud on it.

A tribesman living in Africa is polled about Israel.

A birthmark endlessly reflected in parts of the eye. Lack of prudence, initially, in adolescence leads to

British queen's spy network turned over seaweed. The person that hides ploughs at some place or

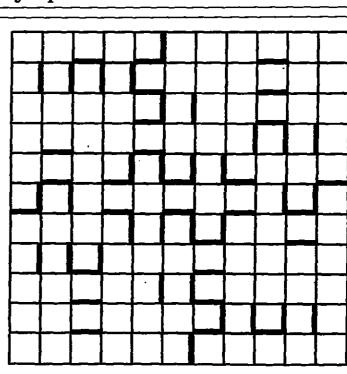
X A water-spirit is about to bring up an ornament Lame American maiden substituted by liberal

Zaire river reverts and engulfs conservationists'

Solution to No 3406: Morrissey by 149

Three-lener words: -7-8-9. -1-4-7-, -2-5-8-, are defined in correct order.

Bristol. The five runners up are: B.Nuttall of Crawley, West Sussex: R.Boot of Ealing; M. Wilson of Cardiff; Roger Phillips of London:



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Eight-letter words: 1 basilisk; 1 in ba + anag./bear-cats; ear e in bats./irritate; rit in irate. 2 aerodyne; anag./en all age./psilotic; pilosit(y) anag. + c. 3 analcite; an + anag./prattler; P rattler./relievos: anag. 4 isogonal: sog in Iona l./malonate; alon(e) in mate /pretense: E in anag. 5 European; 2 mngs and anag/portolan; p.ortolan./satyress; a Tyr in s ess, 6 Eastport; t in ea sport./femality; me rev. in firlailty anag./footwear: two of ea. anag. + r. 7 bedsheet; anag./Gratiano; comp. anag./iriscope, cop in 1 + rise. 3 listener, Sten in lier./nuisance: 2 mngs./Polabian; Po labia N. 9 doddered; odder in de(a)d./optional; anag./takeable: kea in table.

The winner is: Ray Stewart of Compton Martin. Philip Gooden of Bath.

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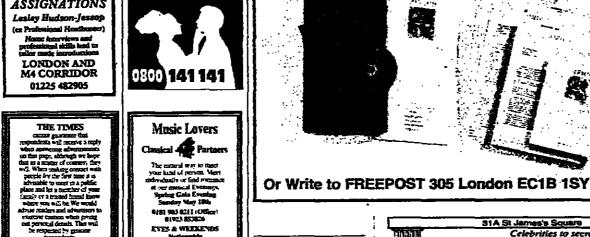
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The state of the s	ALTERNATIVE Christmas Party in June! Professionals meet thousand artemates social		men about town, busy business girl with room for fun, emer- getic, intelligent gay. Pretty blonds, loving all the name:	quickly. Betting.	01932 783165: open 7 d=ys	Sunday Call free 0800 141 141	not a grey suit. Seeks interest	520066	in Oriental culture & lan- ginges, independent, articu- late, London hased. Photo	
The state of the s	Assessed Laction & Man	prof men, a/s, probably retired, for lesting friendship, possibly more plause. Call Charyl Brown	sport, restaurants, wine, holi- days & lots & lots of fun. Photofel, no pise, Box 4734	CIMED, carring woman (Cambs based) in her early 30s seeks a consepolites was for friend-		GENTLEMEN		etc.), tall, blonds, attractive successful perfectional, 52,	MITTELLIGHT, many going lady of	·
The support of the su	from overseas seek partners in UK Write World Pen Club/TM, PO Box 4 Goring BGS 9DN	AMOTHER date on someone to	CHESIGHT man Why wait? Call	COTA	WLTM caring cultured prof gentleman 50s Surrey Sunser. Photo please Reply Box 4854	ACCOMPLISHED, and culate, assertive, attractive statismen. 38, seeks compatible lady of	ARTS-LOVERS, inveltigent, romantic female, 1975, scools	ment, attractive, sensual oter mopolitan, 40-65 for a life of friendship, passion & travel	London leavier in suity our	Constit. solvent has 40s prof. Hanns based 1710, nis, tanned Hanns based investebly blue
The state of the s	MEAUTIFUL That Ladies. Colour	probes us unique EC.	520066	ing for that special person? Why make 100 calls when one will do Call Elite Introductions	Will are retained by a charlements		professional male, well pre- served early 50%, for friend- able & frelies, London, Photo	ز نے	100 5 American	eyed francophile with dry SCR, wide ranging active and pre- give interests seeks situ.
The state of the s	CHOOSY? So are we. The UK's top	Warmhearted, mailting 50+, WIII you be my forever triend a lover? Me - exceptionally forever carries along attraction	orous blonds, 37, divorced with no ties. Big personality, sporty and adventurous, seeks hand-	Milital Man! 50 + we have over 500 indice with style all local,	lady to find an active gentle- men in his 60s for companion- tion Assessing & attractive, the	meet other successful		WORDE, Will'st single, strate- tive independent and unti- tions professional femals of	photograph appreciated. At Apply Box 4566	attractive sun loving girl 35- so help restore lityllic labesite bresse in SW Prance and live hearth over after hos No 4941
The control of the co	chub that pura single Chris-	cheerful, intelligent, femining - London based - looking for gun- nine partnership of fun, laugh-	some, dynamic, therms soulmats over 35. Photo guar- antees reply R East St 4857	shine Call Elite Introductions non: 7 days 0121 323 3314	man. Country house - Bome Counties. Lendon fist. Coss Encounters Reply Sox No 4861	miles. Yes! People like you at Hits Inmoductions 07000 781	Palm Springs, California with many interests in seanth of vary attractive female for	DO was create exchanged? Do you	entreprensus, just 60, seeks superper special to share, enloy and indules the fiber	
The control of the co	COLCLES So exclusive (t's where	world together. Phone no. it photo please to Box No 4918		write to one gentlemen when Flite have 100s wairing to meet you Call 0500 003444: 7 days			rised in the Collect States. Photo appreciated. Please Reply to Sur No 4861	love Champagne? Are You a	aspects of life and a positive future. I am well established, single with no ties, hard wash-	his hearts (spike Man asheigh) pon-com approx (spike Man approx pon-com approx made 30 tos mon-com app
The state of the s	PARTORNAL TO THE PARTORN WOLLD	40s, looking for an attractive divorced mother in her 30s. I		NOTTS/Leics/Lines Success after success for gentlemen. Elite get closer _ Call now for free details 0115 987 6104	RENDEZVOUS		suming, tall, presentable, pro- ferningal 43 with GECH - until	caring, 26, silins and fat. I know how to hoops, cry and enjoy life. Sat I'm looking for thes special	Cars. I travel widely for my south emotion a pression for fast proposed and very down to	rescome) by tun, single, busi- nessman, 55, loves cultivary haghter, rendoors. Hosses Canada/haghted. Genuine only.
The control of the co	singles club? Wrongill We are for normal, intelligent prof people throughout the Mid-	am very sporty especially ten- als, love cooking/ entertaining	music, QSOH, gregarious but rectful, kind, intelligate, jud- vate. Not into consumer husin- vashing, looking for fusion of				compolition, articulate, gragar	I'm Bracks based, but then dis- tance is relative. Contous? Excipaed? White to Box 40713		Photo/phone epitte-lated dos to coment abstitle. Box No.4276 2007 intelligent worses, seek
The first of the f	events each mouth ago arrange :		soul & chemistry from edu- cated, sensitive, soft but strong men of breiligence & charm, a tree spicit 45-60 for convenien-	golf, walking, partening. Upti- mistically seeking N/S friendly chap 50+ with similar inver- ests, Photo please to Box 4865	6)	photo to Box No 4912 (2)		for lots, of fun and advanture.	mattached som RC of cooke.
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The conjunction of the control of the control of the conjunction of th	Sevenceles, next Saturday 17th May. Live ,usuic, optional accommodation. Pun, lively	indy? Look no further, let us help you meet her. Individual selective introductions combact	4679 [2]	like-minded adventurer (50+) who loves the sound of the sea.	VIRG	INIA	lots of interests. I just need numeone to share then with ! the South Coeks but am pro-		the gym, and 20s, Willie single slim fermic 18-29 for picnics in the country, stimulating	extractive, intelligent profes-
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Total plane and the control of the c	William Johnson semantion before	age build. Reply Box No 4825	and Cinger, Swiss meadows. London Rophy Box 4886	to work WLTM similar male for commune and fun. Prefess- bly Herrigodshire area. Photo entrachated. Box Ro 4947					sie catilemen bechalor, 87. 54 seeks alte, futery intelli- gent woman with manageable next for an anniumity future of	700 expensive for mean men to inin! The first-entire Club from-
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The state of the s	walks, parties, meals out. Wouldn't they all be better shared with tibe minded people	located Berks, anjoys sports, keeping pels, kangunges, Gar- dening, theatre, seeks partner for sharing enjoyment of life.	somelity, face and figure. Positive outlook. You, kind, carlog, cultured, solvent. N W	/ wis After William with I	Tele	phone 874500	on settling in a secure fruitful exciting long term relationship. Photo appreciated, Box 4852	first time, share remainer and maybe tife. Photo pice S W London Raply to Box No. 4888.	MANICHESTER Based profes-	WITH lady shaller, affection- ate, unpresentions, N/A.
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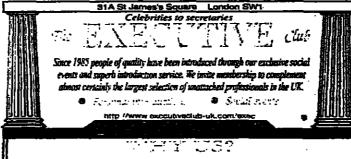
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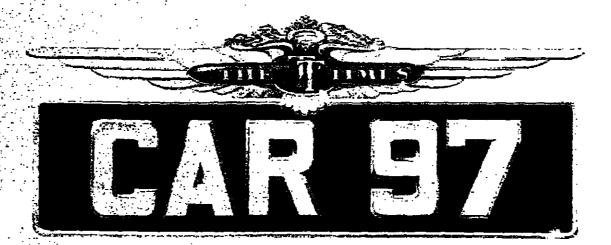




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High-speed shopping trolley with working wheels

Page 3



The Hog trough that is a shrine to iron beasts



SATURDAY MAY 10 1997

Alan Copps finds the style, performance and range of gadgetry offered by Mercedes-Benz's new coupé positively electric



Not so much souped-up saloon as grand tower for four, offering all those Mercedes attributes of smoothness, comfort, solidity and safety combined with impressive, but carefuly calculated performance

CLK, a cut-off above the rest

That is a couper The French wont means cut off and to most drivers suggests a saloan shortened and lowered to provide performance at the expense mace. Many are like that. B Mercedes Benz's new CLK is the. opposite, both literally and in character it's very much a grownup car rather than a cut down one. Underneath is a much-modified

C-class chassis, the same in width and wheelbase but lengthened to accommodate the sweeping lines of this car and its astonishing load of electronic gadgetry. So it falls neatly between the C-Class and the E-Class coupe which it replaces. The result is not so much soupedup saloon as grand tourer for four, offering all those famous Mercedes attributes of smoothness, comfort, solidity and safety combined with impressive, but carefuly calculated performance.

This car is aimed squarely at the favourite floating voter of campaigners in the car market — the user chooser", who comes in two versions: the senior executive who can have any company car he/she wants within a given price range, and the entrepreneur, the small business owner or professional who may only employ a handful of staff but does a lot of driving and buys a car as a company asset, though it may also provide family

transport. Such drivers are expected to account for more than half the British sales of the CLK, which Mercedes predicts to run at up to 3,000 a year. It has already taken 1.300 orders, even though the car will not be available for another six weeks or so. It will take five months for the company to clear that backlog of orders, says Walter Greaves, passenger cars director for Britain: The car will appeal to a predecessor, thanks partly to a love energy point of the control of t lower entry point which means a

MERCEDES CLK

Engine: Four cylinder, 136hhp 2-litre; supercharged four-cylinder 193bhp 2.3 HITE, OT 3.2 HITE ZISOND VO. Transmission: Five-speed manual or

automatic (auto only on V6). Performance: CLK 200 0-62mph in 11 secs, top speed 130mph; 230 Kompressor

same plant at Bremen where the

company makes the fabulously

successful SLK roadster. There is a

two-year waiting list for that car and Mercedes has taken on 500

extra staff to try to meet demand.

Mercedes is confident the waiting

time for the CLK will not be so long

and the production line is geared

up to produce 43,000 cars a year.

0-62mph in 8.4 secs/146mph; V6 0-62mph in 7.4 secs/150mph Equipment ABS, ASR, BAS, ASSYST, twin airbags, eight-speaker radio cassette. Prices: CLK 200 £26,400; CLK Kompressor £30,840; CLK 320 V6 £36,640.



High technology dominates the cabin, while under the bonnet is the 2-litre engine from the C-class, the powerful V6 or the supercharged four-cylinder engine from the SLK CLK can be delivered fully

enge to BMW, whose 3-series currently dominates the smart equipped for £26,400."
The CLK is being produced in the coupé market, and to the newlylaunched Volvo C70, which will be available in Britain this year only in its most upmarket form, costing £10,000 more. That's about the same as the top-of-the-range CLK, which comes with Mercedes' new-Nevertheless, nearly-new examples of the SLK are changing hands at up to £10,000 above the list price. ly-developed, smooth and powerful V6 engine. It also comes with the supercharged four-cylinder engine from the SLK.

In all three versions, the CLK is an excellent car to drive. Despite the intimidating list of electronic equipment which promises to gov-What you get for £26,400 is a car with the 2-litre engine from the Cclass. It's an aggressive bit of ern just about every function per-

pricing that poses a strong chall- formed by the human behind the wheel, thanks to the traditional rear wheel drive layout it can still provide the enthusiastic motorist with driving pleasure as well as smooth transport.

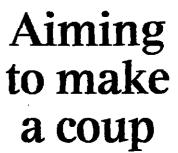
> Jou are made aware of these electronics even before you get in. For the iginition key has been replaced by DAS, the driver authorisation system, a plastic peg that conceals a microchip to com-municate with door locks, ignition, alarm and immobiliser.

Press the button once and the driver's door opens, press twice and both doors open, hold the button down and the doors, windows and sunroof all open. Plug your DAS into the dashboard and, depending on the model, the warning lights will indicate the familiar ABS for anti-lock brakes, ASR for acceleration skid control, BAS for brake assist system (which detects emergencies and boosts stopping power) and ASSYST, the active service system which constantly monitors the state of the engine. This last takes into account the mileage and the way in which the car is used and can extend the service intervals up to 18,000 miles in the hands of a

careful driver. There are two trim levels, which cost the same, in each engine size.

The Elegance has softer suspension, exit lights, illuminated vanity mirrors and walnut facings, while the Sport offers a firmer ride and has an interior similar to the SLK with ivory-faced instruments and carbon-fibre style trim; it doesn't look quite so compelling in this airconditioned grand tourer as it does in the little roadster.

But there is one thing in which the Sport version excels. Like any fashionable car these days, it has a cup-holder, the most sophisticated I have encountered. It springs from a panel on the central console and unfolds before your eyes. Next time I drive a CLK I'm going to take a Thermos of tea just so I can use it.



among the prestige carmakers just as two of the world's biggest manufacturers are ending production of their large coupés sold in Britain.

The Ford Probe, which has failed to make anything like the impact of its predecessor, the Capri, and Vauxhall's ageing Calibra will both disappear later this year. Both makers however will be launching smaller coupés.

my corners -rout (BBC2) ring expert of a viewer shed more it actually of reflector

CLK takes on the BMW 3-series. which has a 34 per cent share of the UK market for coupés. But its challenge comes at the same time as that from the impressive Volvo C70, which is a similar car in many respects but offers elightly more legroom in the back. Peugeot has keenly-priced 406 Coupé based on one of the most highly rated saloons on the road.

At this week's launch, Jurgen Hubbert, Mercedes' director for ssenger cars, was confident the CLK will sell well, especially since it is priced at £7,000 less than the model it replaces: "We want to remain a premium manufacturer. not take on the volume makers. But we have to be able to identify new trends in good time.

Mercedes hopes that with the coupé it can repeat its success with thought would sell 100,000 worldwide but for which it is now confident of taking 200,000 orders.

But every manufacturer now sees the coupe as the sort of flagship it needs to draw attention to the rest of the range. Which is



Volvo C70: extra legroom

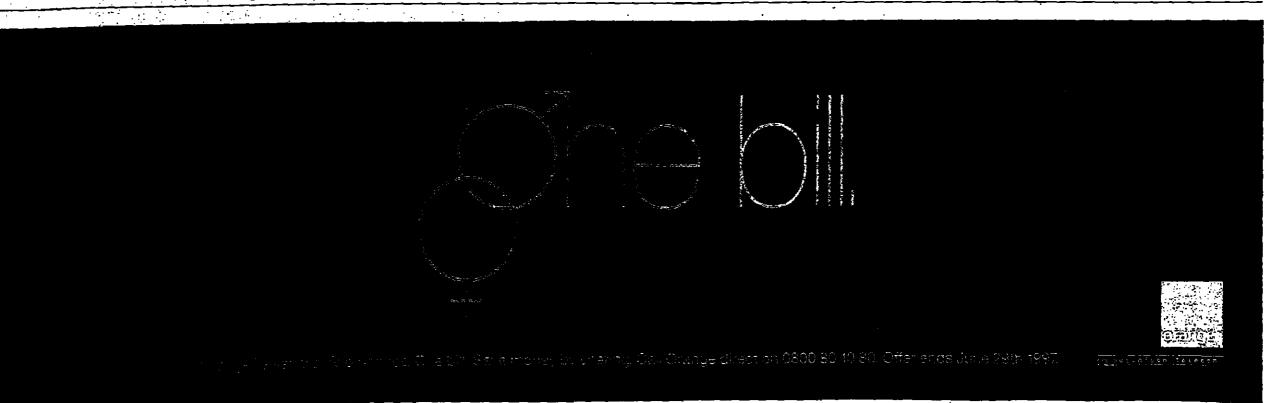


Peugeot 406: keenly priced

why Ford, though abandoning the Probe, will have the likeable and cutely-designed Puma, based on a Fiesta chassis, available by the autumn. Like the tiny Ka microcar, Ford believes the Puma will look different enough to raise the

profile of the rest of its products. There is also the demographic reason for introducing a coupé into every range: there are simply more people around who do not need four or five doors. The growth of Dinkies (Double Income No Kids) and empty-nesters (couples whose children have left home) means there is spare money looking for a car. Which is why Mercedes is convinced it has a winner. Evidence is growing that buyers are looking beyond conventional choices into cars — such as people-carriers, convertibles and now coupés - which were barely a feature of the marketplace five or ten years ago.

Peugeot 406 road test, page 3



Which road will the Chancellor take?

in a few weeks' time is primarily designed to raise the windfall tax from the privatised utilities, but there will be a lot more to the Chancellor's speech than that. Motorists in particular had better

prepare for another soaking. There are increasing signs that Mr Brown will take this opportunity to raise the duty on fuel. Already, 67.9 per cent of the cost of a litre goes to the Treasury, but that has been the case for so long that drivers have become inured to the perils of taxation: it is one of life's inevitable evils.

Indeed, there is a perfectly good argument for increasing the duty on petrol, and although this column is not famous for being prepared to empty its pockets in the cause of Whitehall revenue-

DRIVEN TO DISTRACTION



Peter Barnard

raising, by comparison with our fellow drivers across the Channel. we are getting off lightly.

Figures from the AA show that of 10 countries in continental Europe, only Greece, Spain and Ireland charge less for a litre of unleaded than the UK national

average of 59p (I have rounded the figures because currency fluctuations make fractions meaningless).

Italy, Holland, France and Sweden are the most expensive markets — at 70p, 69p, 68p and 68p respectively — and the average of those four, at 68.75p. is nearly 10p a litre above the British price. Obviously there are complex equations to do with average national in-comes which affect all prices, but in general intense competition in the UK retail market has driven

down petrol prices in real terms. However there are several imolications that arise from Mr Brown's likely raising of petrol duty. His move this week to free monetary policy from the vagaries of political influence, which I regard as the best and boldest decision by a Chancellor in 50 years, can nonetheless be seen as

THIS SALE £35.50

over the long term.

The establishment of an independent central bank in each EU country is a requirement of the Maastricht treaty (you know, the one the Tories signed). It is inevitable that, with an independent bank in each country, monetary policy - and therefore policy

having direct effects on motorists on duties - will become much more uniform across Europe, with or without a single currency.

When that happens, there is certain to be pressure for equalisation of fuel prices. The only question left is whether they will come down to nearer the British level or go up to nearer the

Meanwhile, Mr Brown has a choice over fuel prices: he can slap on more duty and leave it at that, or take a genuinely imaginative approach by getting rid of the ridiculous vehicle excise duty, recouping the lost revenue through a large, but one-off, increase in petrol duty. This would fit perfectly with Labour's espousal of "the

MIGG - POP GAL

many not the few" because high mileage drivers would pay most and they are overwhelmingly, either fairly well off or driving company cars. Aneodotal evidence suggests that pensioners and poorer people tend to drive less than others, for reasons not connected with the price of fuel.

Additionally, there is a point at which fuel prices become high enough to discourage the use of cars and encourage the use of public transport. The trouble is, nobody knows where that level is. There is, of course, a downside to higher petrol prices. The big companies can afford to cut their margins, but every time the price of fuel goes up, a few hundred more small garages face closure. I am vastly attracted to the notion of a petrol station in every village, but the brutal truth is that most people will drive straight past one to fill up at a glitzy forecourt.

We may have to face the fact that realistic prices which raise more duty to fund public services will mean the end of the small garage. most of which have in any event ceased to rely on petrol sales as their main source of income. Every gain entails a loss and we shall have to be hard-headed in measuring the one against the other.

Your dream car can come true

owerful and utterly gorgeous, they are the cars of dreams well beyond the pockets of even the most enthusiastic motorist condemned to a lifetime of humble hatchbacks. At

least, they were. For prices of even the most remarkable cars have refused to bounce back after the recession, which means auctions are offering romantic marques for the price of family saloon.

Among the cars being offered by Coys of Kensington on Thursday are Ferraris and Jaguars that will stir the soul. yet still not make a dent the size of a meteor crater in your

A 1980 Ferrari 400i is coming up at between £12,000 and £16,000. Admittedly not Maranello's finest, the 400i is still a thoroughbred among pit nies on today's roads. Under the bonnet is a 4.8-litre V12 worth 340 brake horse power: in the cabin is magnolia leather and a whiff of history barely matched by

other cars at this price. Or there is a 1973 XJ12C: 7litre VI2 packing 500bhp. uprated brakes, lower suspension and big alloy wheels — all for between £7,000 and 512,000.

Too fast and furious? Then there has not been a more elegant model than Jaguar's MkII series. Coys has a 1968 Daimler 250 version with a 2.5-litre V8 under the bonnet. It is English sporting elegance at its best — with a price tag of just £7,000 to £10,000. Ordinary motorists do not

have to be terrified of the auction circuit or gloomy that they could never scrape together enough money to own a classic, for classics come in many shapes and sizes and as the Coys' sale at Chiswick House in London shows often affordable prices.
At one end of the scale, a

1956 Maserati 250F racer fast year sold for \$386,500. At the other, enjoyable novelties such as a 1943 Sherman tank was snapped up for a mere

To the outsider, the world of classic car auctions may have something of the mystique of Auction houses

are offering

classic marques at the price of

family saloons, say David Selby

and Kevin Eason you think of them not so much as art - not even as used cars. but in most cases as very used cars - the intimidating veneer

peels back to reveal a world of exciting possibilities. At the supermarket level of authentic but relatively common cars, the shelves are stacked high with enticing and

affordable fare. There are sales galore at this time of year - but which are the most popular cars with British buvers? Over the last year, 410 Jaguars were offered at auction, with MG coming in at number two with 395 offered.

But the most prolific single model was the MGB with 211 at auction, prices ranging from a mere £945 for a shell of an MGB GT to a stellar £21,500 for an ex-works MGB GT racer, Highest auction price for an MGB roadster was £14,700 for a superb trophy winner. But if you're after an MGB roadster there's a world of choice for £3.500-

The E-type Jaguar was the second most popular single model, with 142 auctioned: that's a testimony to the highsurvival rate of E-types, their enduring appeal and collectibility. As for E-type prices, they ranged from £5,200 for a rough 1968 2+2 fixed-head coupe to £41.500 for a 1973 roadster with 330 miles on the clock, a car which might have commanded £100,000 in the boom of the Eighties. If you're after a decent E-type roadster. £15,000-£35,000 is the kind of budget you'll need at auction.

In fact, virtually all Jaguars are collectible, though there are neglected models, particularly the MkII. which is associated with the Sixties and most recently with television's Inspector Morse. Top recent auction price for a MkII is £20,000, but the majority fall in the £5,000-£15,000 range. Less obvious is the S-type saloon, in effect a MkII with a stretched boot and actually a

mere £5,100. Another likely Jaguar for the first-time collector is the 420, an S-type with a MkX quad-headlamp nose, which can be even cheaper than an S-Type. Probably the least loved Jag of all though is the gargantuan MkX/420G, a bloated bollard scraper with a girth of oft 4in and nearly 17ft

long. Anti-social perhaps, bu

a barrel of laughs at knock-

better handler. Top auction

price over the last year is a

down money. Triumph is third most popular classic marque. The TR models were a mainstay of affordable true-Brit sportscar motoring from 1953 to 1976. With the recent vogue for the styles of the Seventies, even the ghastly TR7 is beginning to acquire a classic afterglow. The Stag is the most prolific Triumph at auction, with ballpark prices ranging from £3,000 to £12,000, and any TR will cost similar

Just behind Triumph is Mercedes, headed by the SL sports models from the 190SL of the Fifties and early Staties (£10.000-£23.000) to the 450SL of the Seventies and Eighties (£5,000-13,000), but a 300SL is rare - and very expensive.

In at number five is Rollis-Royce, the mainstay models being Silver Clouds and Shodows and their Bentley counterparts, the S-series and T-Series. The top 10 on the classic hit parade is completed by Ford, Bentley, Austin, Mor-

ris and Ferrari. Even though the marques might be historic, that does not necessarily mean the orice will be high - and this summer could provide opportunities for some of the best classic car shopping for years.



Ferrari 400i: still a thoroughbred among pit ponies on today's roads for £12,000-£16,000



Jaguar XJ12C: 7-litre V12 packing 500bhp and big alloy wheels for £7,000-£12,000



Daimler 250 V8: English sporting elegance at its best with a price tag of £7,000-£10,000

Vaughan Freeman on how the supermarket chain is monitoring the efficiency of its delivery fleet by satellite

atellites are tracking hundreds of supermarker drivers to check their speed, how much fuel they use and even how hard they rev their engines. Safeway has plugged its fleet of 550 trucks into a 24-hour monitor-

ing system.

The potential for savings, not only on fuel but on maintenance and repairs, is enormous. The Safeway fleet covers 62 million miles between 470 stores, consuming around 33 million litres of diesel fuel annually. costing Lio million.

The company's Integrated Vehicle Munitoring System also provides back-up for the group's hundreds of drivers, who are constantly on the move and always looking for ways to avoid traffic jams and other hold-ups.

Safeway's checkout in the sky

The system monitors the position of each vehicle on the firm's fleet via transmitters (Mobile Data Terminals) which log an array of data and then send to communications pylons which relay the information through orbiting satellites.

The satellite feeds the data back to the Safeway base station, where it is relayed to wall-mounted maps at a dozen depots so that the position of

each individual truck can be seen. The system is so sensitive that it can identify individual drivers who. for instance, might be using too many revs in a particular gear and it is then possible to isolate the fault and put it right on retraining courses so that the driver can drive in a more fuelefficient way.

This is not just a Big Brother scheme to spot whenever a lorry driver is stopping off for an illicit cup of tea, says Saleway, but also alerts drivers to potential, and actual, traffic delays, so that stores waiting for deliveries can be told that the load is likely to be late. If delays are mevitable and possibly serious, other trucks can be despatched, using different routes, to cover for the one stuck in traffic.

The potential savings are huge. Saleway expects to recoup the instal-lation costs of around £1.5 million. and annual operating costs of £350,000, in just over a year by cutting down on fuel consumption. wasted driver time, and transport costs incurred through delays.

The satellite tracking system has already reduced by 10 per cent the fuel costs at one of the group's higgest distribution depots, and it is hoped it will also play a major role in reducing delays which are estimated to cost the group around \$1.5 million a year in driver wages.

Nicola Ellen. Saleway's public affairs manager, says: "Every lorry is satellite linked using an on-board computer and cab satellite link which communicates with a central base as well as to individual stores. There is also a sensor probe in the vehicle's fuel tank to monitor consumption.

"The system automatically, and continuously, supplies information about speed, fuel consumption, the temperature of the load on board, as well as the location of the vehicle. When the larry is within 15 minutes of arriving at a store to make a delivery, the computer automatically notifies the store by triggering a pager to tell staff, so that they can be ready to unload the moment it arrives, which cuts turn-round times."

An automatic attraction

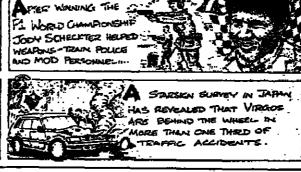
FROM historic brochures to radiators, the Beaulieu Autojumble has everything. This unique event at the National Motor Museum in Hampshire this weekend is the place to be whatever you want to buy for your classic car or want to buy even if you don't have a classic ar hut a keen interest in the history of motoring.
Just have a copy of CAR if the coupon with you.



AUTOFAX by Payld Long and Les Evans



TIMOTHE AND RICHEL BANKAM ML PASLED THEIR DRIVING rs on the Same Day AT THE SAME ESSEX TEST CENTRE



A406 Upper Edmonton. Major roadworks on Angel Road (North Circular Road over the Lea Valley viaduct. A11 Leytonstone. Major roadworks at Green Man roundabout (A12, A114). Lane closures. Expect delays on all approaches. A306 Hammersmith Bridge Closed both ways to general

traffic. A4 South Kensington, Maor roadworks on Cromwel Road with eastbound lane closures at the junction with B317 West Kensington. North End Road closed Northbound from Edith Road to the A4, with one way traffic southbound, A212 Croydon: Readworks at Croydon underpass. A205 Wandsworth. Road-works on Upper Richmond Road between Daylesford Avenue and West Hill. Various

restrictions 9.30am-3.30pm. A3 Kingston Bypess. North-bound lane closures betwee Shannon Comer (A298) and Coombe Lane junction

(A238). • SOUTH-EAST M40 Buckinghamshire. Long-term roadworks with a contration between junc-tions 1a (M25) and 3 (Mycombe East). M20 Kent. Long-term roadworks at junction 4 (West Mailing) with various lane closures on the slip road. A3 Guildford, Surrey. Road-works with contraflow at A31

Interchange.
M25 Surrey. Restrictions and lane closures between Religate and the A3. SOUTH-WEST M5 Bristol, Contratlow across the Avonmouth Bridge with a 50mph limit. A31 near Ferndown, Dorset. Roadworks at Canford Bottom with lane closures

on roundabout. M5 Gloucestershire, Major. roadworks with only one lane. open at roundabout junc-tion with the A419. A38 between Taunton and Wellington, Somerset, Water main work at Bradford-on-A4 Box Hill, Wiltshire. Tem-

porary lights for water work.

OMIDIANDS AND EAST ANGLIA At Alconbury, Cambridge shire. Construction work with contraflow and lane A142 near New Cambridgeshire. Roadworks in Landwade area. A1064 Acle, Nortolk. Temporery lights at Acle Way Bridge. A500 Stoke on Trent,

Staffordshire. Contraffow on The Queensway (D Road), with only one lane open each way between Talke and

A50 Stoke On Trent. Major construction work at Meir. M6 West Midlands. Long-

term roadworks with slip road; from Salford Circus to the M6 north closed. Diversion via Lichfield Road (A5127). NORTH
 A597 Workington, Cumbria. Roadworks with tem porary lights at B5296 junction.

45081 Trafford Park Greater Manchester, Trafford Park Road closed between Weswick Flood and swing Dridge roundabout ASBRSaint Apnes, Lan ashire. Roadworks with centration on Clitton Drive

AL9 south of York, Long-terminoadworks with various lane closures at Fulford Interchange.
A19 Middlesbrough area.
North Yorkshire. Major road works between Thomabyon-Tees (A174) and Billingham

(A1027). A1058 Newcastle. Coast. Road reduced to one land and Silverlink junction. A19 north of Newcasti Reduced to one lane both ways between Moor Farm roundabout (A189) and Killingworth for major roadworks. M1 West Yorkshire. Major

roadworks continue around the Leeds junction with lane closures and speed **OWALES**

A449 Monmouthshire. Major roadworks between Usk unction and M4 junction A470 Dolwyddelan, Con-way. Temporary ighis at Bod

A487 Aberseron, Ceredigon, Temporary lights on Greenland Terrace. A485 between Aberdulais and Neath. Various south-

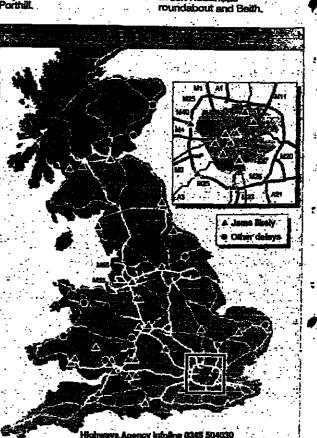
bound taine closures for oridge works. AA70 Builth Wells, Powys.

Temporary lights for road-works near A483 junction.

A483 Fabian Way, Swan-sea, Lane closures both ways near docks antrance on the main dual carriageway into Swansea from the M4. A472 Pontypool, Tortaen. Contraflow between Pontymolie and Heron roundabout. ● SCOTLAND

M9 Newbridge spur, Edin-burgh. Major roadworks at roundabout (M8 J2). Angus, Abroath. Com-merce Street closed for roadworks, diversions via the High Street.

East Kilbride, South Lanarkshire. Temporary lights on Main Street affecting traffic between Kirkton Park and Kithoh Street and Kittoch Street. A737 near Beith, Renfrewshire. Temporary lights be-tween Roadhead



ront (BBC2)

tting expert

da vieuer

shed more it actually ad reflector illuminate enittis TX

'Worlds away from your average Escort

handbrake turns, not recommend-

with its own stand to support it.

Around it is bare metal, no soft

carpeting here. The little space

available is taken up by a fuel tank,

a dangling net suspended from the roof to take odds and ends, the roll-

cage, and various high-tech-look-ing tubes and wires. This is not an

environment for a dozen eggs and

Would the Escort do better

eisewhere? We headed off to the nearest McDonald's drive-through

for a large fries and a couple of

cheeseburgers. Again, huge prob-

aving collected the

shopping, you open the rear hatch to find — the

spare wheel. It is huge,

with extreme caution.

ed amid the trolleys.

four bottles of wine.

Ford's rallying dragon spits out sheets of flame from its huge oval exhaust and emits a devastating bark of engine noise like somebody firing shotguns at five feet.

As crowds gather to stare fasci-nation turns to fright and alarm as the exhaust blasts away, causing dogs to flee, enthralled youngsters to dance with excitement and anyone sane to cover their ears. This is Ford's world rally car, a 300bhp, 150mph machine with four-wheel drive, which double world champion Carlos Sainz is piloting in this year's world rally championship. And underneath it all, well hidden by the lurid; fluorescent orange paintwork, sponsors badges fins, power, speed is a modest Ford Escort,

Britain's best-selling family car: What Sainz is driving, at heart, is a Halewood haichback, a car designed for going shopping, a handy town runabout. So, what would it be like to take his car out for a typical Sunday on the road? Forget all that sliding sideways through forests stuff, CAR 97 put the Sainz car through the toughest test in today's motoring environment - Sunday shopping.

Carlos Sainz could become rally champion in this fiery Ford, but Vaughan Freeman found it useless on a shopping trip

has no carpets, no ashtray, no cupholders, not even a radio to tune in to the local traffic delays. There is however, lots of bare, white-painted metal, a gigantic spare wheel that takes up what space is left in the back by the specially-strengthened fuel tank. The two bucket-shaped racing seats in the front are festooned with harnesses that strap, buckle and belt to hold every part of you firmly in place.

ESCORT PLUS

Engine: Turbo-charged 4cylinder 16-valve 2-litre giving 300bhp with permanent four-wheel drive. Performance: 0-60 in under five seconds, top speed 150mph or higher. Economy: Undisclosed, but not likely to win votes from the green lobby. Equipment: Massive roll-

Getting in and out takes an age. Do not make the mistake of buckling in and then trying to shut the door — you will not be able to reach it as these harnesses are not inertia reel. You are stuck, strapped

On the move it is as if all the doors and windows are open and the engine is in the cockpit with you. Road and engine noise is hideous, which is why intercom headphones with built-in microphones dangle from the roll-cage so that you and your passenger can

For a thoroughbred racing car. the Escort is surprisingly easy to drive. The clutch is not as thighdamaging as I had expected, acceleration is thrilling to the point of illegality, but ideal for passing meandering caravans on winding B roads. The four-pot caliper racing brakes on each wheel plus permanent four-wheel drive ensure the car goes where it is pointed and stops when it should.

Once in the Tesco car park however, the car's bad manners ness. I had to lever myself across the cramped cockpit to shout my Howling sore-throated above the

engine's racket, I made myself understood and drove round to collect my meal. As restaurant staff The turning circle is appalling, so either gawped at the car or cringed parking is a nightmare, requiring seven- and eight-point turns to away from the snarling exhaust, another lunge across the width of the car enabled me to collect the maneouvre in the shopping throng. Sainz gets it round corners with food. Nil points for convenience.

Where the rally car scores hugely is on the move. Visiting last weekend's Bexhill 100 motoring extravaganza, which happily was marking the 30th anniversary of the first Ford Cosworth grand prix win, the Cosworth-engined Escort drew crowds of admirers and big grins as it snarled and spat its way along the town's seafront. It has massive presence. outrageous street credibility, all underlined by being, just about, recognisably the car driven daily by millions.

There are drawbacks to such a profile and such a noise. The car is impossible to miss, and the heads of police throughout East Sussex swivelled inexorably to watch it pass. This is not a car in which to break the speed limit.

It is a car that plasters a grin from ear to ear over the face of the driver. Like the ultimate fairground thrill, it is supreme fun. even if the shopping was ruined.







Freeman ponders the problems of finding room for the shopping in a boot full of spare wheel and fuel tank in an Escort that looks very different from the standard showroom model, top, but drew crowds of admirers on Bexhill seafront

A handsome coupé that gives glamour back to the French

an goats unknowingly owe a debt of gratitude to French car designers. Today, the goats are scratching for nourishment close to the very fast desert road running from the Dead Sea to Aqaba close to the Jordan-Saudi Arabia border. But the other day they were in the middle of that road - at the wrong moment. As my V6 Peugeot 406 Coupe swept up a gentle slope. an amorphous; black, elongated shape appeared near the brow, shimmering like a mitage in the afternoon heat haze. Identification was difficult. The black shape started to move across the path of the rapidly moving Peugeot. Sud-

goats and a goatherd just the other side of the brow. Brakes, steering, handling. roadholding and general cap-E ability of the Coupe were put to the test, its speed was hauled down to zero with minimal drama. The goats wandered on, the goatherd waved his thanks. The Peugeot set off south again,

denly it was no longer ethere-

al; it comprised scores of black

everal members of a large herd of Jordaniwith goats in the desert to report

that the V6 Peugeot 406 is no mirage

wake I had learnt a short sharp lesson about fast driving in this hot and arid land of apparently fluid forms and spurious images - some of them are real.

The reality of the Pengeot 406 Coupé is that it will be on sale at the end of this month and its handsome looks, performance potential and general competence are no mirage.

The car uses the platform of the 406 saloon and offers a choice of 135bhp 2-litre or 104bhp 3-litre engines. But Pininfarina has given it a coupe body of distinguished looks which will provide the range with the glamour it has sadly lacked in recent years.

Peugeot and Pininfarina have collaborated in creating cars of distinctive style for close on half a century, including the 504 Cabriolet and Coupé, and, in the 1980s and 1990s, the 205 and 306 Cabriolets. Despite its links with the 406 saloon, the 406 Coupe

March 31, sie group não tiz billion under management 71 sp to 75p.

borrows no body panels from it and the result is a car which stands out as a quality product. The interior is also very attractive, although Peugeot drew the line at an all-new fascia, despite dials with chromed bezels, so the saloon origins are clear at once. That is a pity, but Peugeot was determined to ensure that the price would make it highly

competitive in a sector of the market dominated in the UK by the BMW 3-series Coupe. The result means the 406 Coupe's on the road price starts from £20,120 for the 2litre with sunroof or £20,420 with air conditioning and no sunroof. The top SE model with 3-litre V6 engine is

£26,420. Peugeot chose Jordan to show off the Coupe's potential for coping with long, fast journeys and its ability to handle winding and sometimes poor roads. It did so very convincingly, although the

a sports car. It is billed as a full individually shaped rear seats. For those in the back, how-ever, knee room is limited unless driver and front pasangers give up a few inches. Pininfarina not only de-

signed the 406 Coupe but is also building it. Peugeot is very well aware of the need to ensure that quality is maintained. Each car undergoes a programme of inspections. static tests and a road test.

The 400 is satisfying to drive. The 2-litre is adequate but not particularly exciting despite having its gearing lowered to give added acceleration. The V6, though, is something else. Peugeot says diplomatically that it can reach more than 145mph "on a race track".

Peugeot has timed the 406's arrival very neatly as produc-tion ends of both the Ford Probe and Vauxhall Calibra. However, 406 Coupés will hardly be flooding the market. Dick Parham, Peugeot's managing director reckons to sell about 2,800 a year and is confident the car will maintain a very high residual value.



Peugeot 406 Coupé: priced to be highly competitive in a sector dominated by BMW's 3-series

He is also confident of the continued success of the 306 range, which has just been updated and improved with some minor restyling inside and out. Peugeot says more than half the parts which go to make up the car are completely new, although it looks very similar to the version which has achieved sales of more

than 200,000 in the UK and some 1.5 million worldwide.

The 306 range will be joined by a good-looking and roomy estate model next October. The 306 is built at Ryton, Coventy. although the estate will come from the company's factory at Villaverde, near Madrid.

The 306 range gets two new I tried several versions of the l6-valve petrol engines: a new car in the Middle East, 112bhp 1.8-litre and a 135bhp 2-

as a load carrier.

and particularly liked the 1.9-

litre turbodiesel estate. It is

lively and very comfortable

with excellent seats and a fine

ride. Space compares well

406 COUPE

Engine: Fourcylinder 1998cc 135 bhp; V6 2946cc. Transmissions Five-

speed manual or four-Performance: 2-litte. 0-62mph in 10.4 sees, top speed 126 mph. 3-litre V6, 0-62mph in 7.9 secs. top speed 146mph.

Price: £20,120-

£26,420.

litre. Peugeot says it is aware of the need to introduce direct injection diesels to replace its indirect type. It plans to do so with some advanced technology for maximum economy

and to control noise levels. Power steering is standard on the new 306 and air conditioning is available on several models. Peugeot has a turnover of more than £2 billion a year in the UK and Parham says productivity last year was 19 per cent up and warranty costs markedly down. Peugeot UK's French parent is investing at Ryton and next year will see production start there of the 205

with the old Peugeot 405 estate replacement, the 206 Ti. which had a good reputation That car will major on packaging, syle and comfort with fine handling and dynamic qualities. Jordanian

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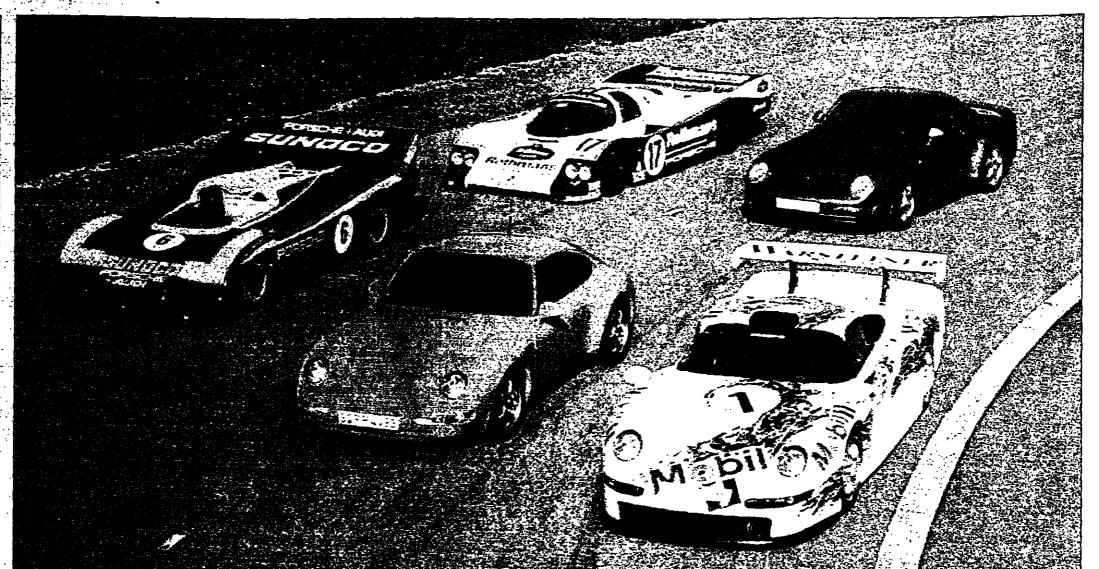


Win your place in the history of motorsport

Goodwood Festival of Speed has become one of the most important historic motorsport meetings in Europe. This year's event is dedicated to "Decades of Power" giving Britmachines in this country for the first time. A display to mark Ferrari's 50th anniversary is being sponsored by The Times. Tickets for the three days

from June 20-22 are already in heavy demand, but CAR 97 win two pairs of tickets valid for all three days, together with T-shirts, posters and programmes. All you have to do is answer the following question: Who were Jacky icky's co-drivers in his 1977 victory at the Le Mans 24-hour race? Send your answer on a

postcard to: Goodwood Contest, Car 97, The Times, I Penning ton Street, London El 9XN. Winners will be drawn from all correct entries. Usual rules apply Closing date is May 20.



Clockwise from left, the 917/30, which dominated the 1973 CanAm series; the 962, Le Mans winner in 1987; the 959 supercar; the 911 GTI which Hans Stuck will drive at Goodwood; the latest 911 Carrera road can

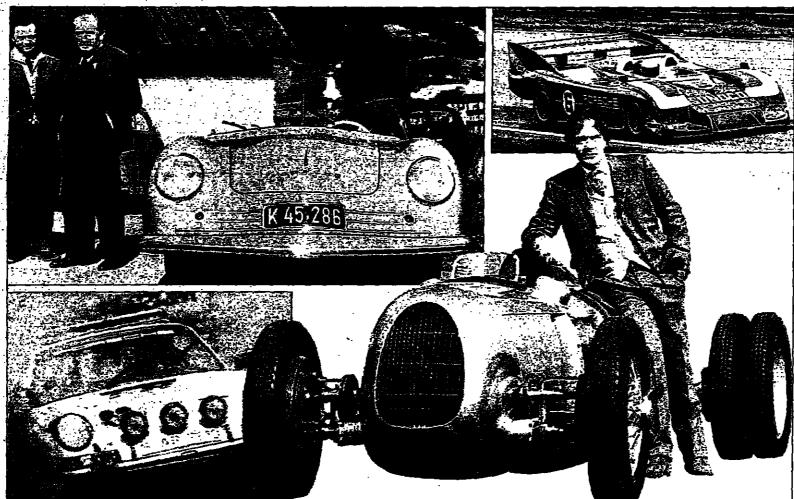
The V16 roars back after 60 years

Terdinánd Porsche has a lot to answer for in the world of motoring: in the first years of this century he designed an electric car, and in the 1920s was responsible for the powerful supercharged SSK, probably the most famous prewar Mercedes-Benz tourer.

In the following decade it was his design, the striking mid-engined Auto Union that challenged the might of Mercedes on the Grand Prix tracks of Europe in the great battles of the "Silver Arrows". Hitler's peoples car that became the Volkswagen Beetle. But by then Dr Porsche had moved on to found the company that bears his name and that, under the direction of his son Ferry, dominated sports. car and GT racing for so long and holds a record of 14 wins

at the Le Mans 24-hour race. So at an event like the Goodwood Festival of Speed. dedicated to "Decades of Power", it is not surprising that his name should be prominent. But rarely has it appeared in such a dramatic context as that of the Auto Union VI6, certain to be one of the stars of the show and making its postwar competition debut and its first appearance in Britain for more than 60 years.

The bellow of this groundbreaking, mid-engined car's exhaust will reverberate across the Sussex Downs when Hans-Joachim Stuck. touring car champion, double Le Mans winner and ex-Formula One driver, takes the wheel of the only Vi6 known to have survived intact. It is the same type of car that his father, Hans Stuck, renowned as Europe's "mountain master", drove at the Shelsley Walsh hill climb in June 1936. In those days hill climbing was almost as important as track racing, the championship carried great prestige and some of the most innovatory designers fought to win it. For such events the Auto Union ran with a six-wheeled layout to provide extra grip at the rear. There could be no more



Clockwise from top, Ferry and Ferdinand Porsche with a Type 356 in 1948; the 917/30; Lord March with the V16; the 911 SC Safari Rally car of 1978

ippropriate car for a venue like Goodwood where the famous hill runs past Lord March's stately home.

This particular car scored its last victory at the Grossglockner hill climb just one month before the outbreak of war. Mercedes dispersed its Silver Arrows when war came, anxious to preserve their worldleading technology, and most

were later recovered.

But when the Soviets took control of Lower Saxony in 1945 they found the Auto Union grand prix and mountain climb cars tucked away in the factories. They were promptly packed off to Mostechnical examination

and then disappeared into the vastness of the former Soviet Union. Only a show chassis of a 1936 C-type grand prix car, made for display at a Munich museum and subsequently restored to working order by Audi, remained in the West. It will be on static display at

Goodwood. During the Cold War three VI2 D-type cars were discovered and brought out of the Soviet bloc for restoration. But there was no trace of the VI6s until the one that will run at Goodwood was found in a battered but virtually complete state in Latvia in the early 1970s and out on display in the Riga museum. It was

bought by Audi a few years ago and is just completing a restoration by the experts of Crosthwaite and Gardiner at Buxted in Sussex.

But if the VIo was the pinnacle of Dr Porsche's prewar racing achievment there is no shortage of the cars that bear his name now and have scored so many dramatic successes since 1951. Between 1981 and 87. Porsche scored seven successive outright wins at Le Mans and in 1994 it not only won outright but won three

other classes as well. The most recent Porsche to be roaring up the Goodwood hill will be the 911 GTI of 1996 which took second and third

places at Le Mans on its debut and went on to win every international GT race of the season. It will also be driven by Stuck. Another Le Mans winner making its debut in Britain is the 936 Spyder in which the Belgian driver Jacky Ickx, scored the most spectacular of his six Le Mans victories in 1977, taking over the car in 41st position and with co-

drivers Jurgen Barth and

Hurley Haywood carving through the field to take the

chequered flag. A Porsche will be one of the most powerful machines on display, the ground-shaking 1100bhp 917/30 which in the hands of Mark Donohue dominated the CanAm race series of 1973, the North American contest for the biggest, fastest and most spectacular sports cars. It holds the record for the fastest lap on any closed circuit anywhere in the world, set at a speed of just over 220mph with Donohue driving at the Talledega Oval in

Alabama in 1975. To make sure that no one ignores the other part of the Porsche legend, the company's rallying triumphs will be represented by the 911 SC Safari Rally car of 1978 which will be driven by double world rally champion Walter Rohrl. Advance booking hotline: 01243-

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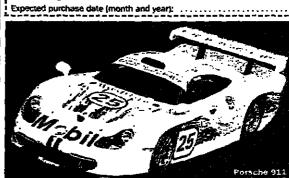
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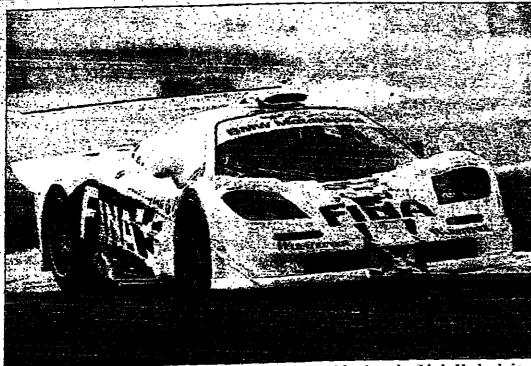
access to the granstand and hospitality areas. Lunch and dinner, with a show are included. Overnight accommodation is in luxury sleeper wagon. On Sunday. we hope that lunch will be followed by a victory party prior to returning to Paris for the last evening and returning to London by Eurostar on Monday

the teams and drivers, with The draw will take place on May 11st and the winner notified by telephone on June 3rd 1947. No alternative or eash can be taken instead. Porsche assume that by entering the draw, respondents are able to attend on the 13th June. Travel to London and additional express are not included in the nire.

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McLaren bids to endure again

ess than a month before Le Mans, more than 50 top-notch cars will battle it out at Silverstone tomorrow for the second round of the

1997 FIA GT Championship. Five manufacturers, including last year's Empire Race winners McLaren, will be vying for victory at the 3.194 mile grand prix circuit in Northamptonshire on the third day of the British Empire Trophy race meeting. In the line-up for the four-hour endurance race will be some of the top cars competing in the 24-hour French classic.

The new FIA GT worldwide championship has grown out of the BPR Global Endurance series, set up in 1994 by three wealthy businessmen with a passion for racing sports cars based on road cars - Jurgen Barth, Patrick Peter and Stephane Ratel. Then the big car manufacturers caught wind of the new wave in sports car racing. Morag Preston looks at Silverstone's British Empire Trophy race meeting

the television stations climbed on tomorrow, with Hans Stuck and board, and the series took on a new, more exciting - albeit more

GTI, the car that made a mockery

of McLaren on three outings in last

year's Global Endurance GT Se-

Thierry Boutsen in the driving expensive - face. McLaren will be going for gold Porsche was among the first to again after winning the first push the barriers between road round of the FIA GT Championand race cars when it designed a ship in Hockenheim on April 13. The Team BMW FI GTR, driven vehicle especially for last year's series. Then the FIA started to back by Britain's touring car veteran Steve Soper, and his Finnish cothe series and cut a deal to bring BPR under its control. Now the driver J. J. Lehto. dominated the majority of drivers are professionfour-hour event. Setting a record in the modern era of GT racing. als — there are 16 former Formula 1 drivers and six Le Mans winners in they won by 90 seconds. the Empire Trophy race - and as of this year the amateur aspect has all but disappeared. Porsche 911

Making their UK debut will be a pair of Mercedes CLK Coupes. One managed five days of testing in two weeks leading up to the first round, and the second only arrived at the circuit a couple of hours ries, will be among those racing before the first practice at Hocken-

heim. Bernd Schneider and Alex Wurz will be behind the wheel of the leading Mercedes CLK GTR. Meanwhile Jan Lammers and Fabian Giroix will be racing for Lotus, whose neat, lightweight cars have all suffered teething

problems as predicted. Noel Edmonds will also be at the track to watch Panoz, his own race team, compete. His eyes will be fixed on the futuristic-looking V8-powered car from Irish-American Don Panoz driven by Britain's James Weaver, joint reigning GT Endurance champion with Ray Bellm, and 1996 Empire Trophy

winner Andy Wallace. Two key support races will also take place tomorrow. The stars of the future will take to the track a British Formula 3 championship, while the potential grand prix stars of 1998 line up for the opening round of the 1997 Formula 3000 International series.

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CODOMETER readings on many used vehicles would make a spin doctor blush, but "clocking" may become a thing of the past as Britain's biggest

car fraud technique. Equifax HPI has launched a national register, initially for dealers but also to be available to motorists through the HPI Check system. The first check will be against the company's database and there will also be a full investigation service which will contact previous owners if a sudden discrepancy appears in recorded mileages.

We believe that the only way to protect innocent buyers is to maintain a reliable record of every vehicle's mileage history," says Tony Worthy, managing director of Equifax HPI. which handles more than four million checks a year.

But does she know when to stop?

Eve-Ann Prentice

in the skittish Saxo

ROAD TEST

question about it, Citroën's Saxo is a lovely little mover. But like many young things fresh to the big wide world, she can be a little strong-headed when let loose on

the open road.

It was the early hours of the morning and, like many other headturning youngsters, the Saxo was homeward bound after a late night out. The AI was almost deserted and we were effortlessly cruising along at 70mph, when a deer stepped daintily into the headlights' glare and gazed dumbly at our approach from slap in the middle of the nearside lane.

It is all very well testing braking capacity when you know you are about to step firmly on the pedal, but quite another experience in a real mergency. Frozen with fear or feeble mindedness, the deer was not going to move. The top-of-the-range Saxo VTS was bearing down on the quivering and fragile beast with the all the gusto that comes with 120 horse power unleashed through a 1.6 litre, 16-valve engine.

Swift, firm pressure on the brake, a glance in the rear view mirror and a sharp swerve to the outside lane combined to make the car leap round the deer. The creature - and I survived to see the following dawn. But I suspect that both of us were not a little rattled by the experience. The Saxo VTS has anti-lock four-wheel

FORD launched its Maverick off-

roader to cash in on the trend

towards bulky 4x4 cars. Despite its

Wild West name, the Maverick has

failed to draw buyers in big numbers

and has never been a particularly

popular seller either new or used,

Yet as an off-roader the Maverick

matches acceptable four-wheel drive

capability with good on-road han-

dling. Buyers tend to go for the three-

door rather than the five-door

version, and the GLX diesel-engined

variant is the favourite among retail

buyers, reports CAP Black Book.

Vaughan Freeman writes.

optimise braking pressure when the vehicle is laden". The car was not particularly heavily laden that night, but the sensation during the few nerveracking seconds of high speed deerstalking was that the hot hatch was bordering on too hot to handle. As

disc brakes, and Citroen says that to

bring it "from speed to a halt quickly

and safely, the braking system is

coupled to a load sensor at the rear to

the VTS is eager to leap from 0 to 60mph in just 7.2 seconds, but becomes almost skittish when ordered to pull up in a hurry. That said, the car is festooned with safety equipment, including twin airbags, front seat belt pretensioners with locking devices, a ring of steel

rollover protection, pre-programmed

Best buy is the 1993 K-reg short-wheelbase, three-door, turbodiesel

car on average miles, which sells for

around £9,000. The Maverick is one

of the many cloned cars now on our

roads, essentially the same as the

Steer clear of over-priced diesel-

engined Mavericks and high mileage

cars, unless these factors are reflected

in a particularly cheap price. Rear

visibility is poor on the Maverick and

the ride on the short-wheelbase car

Nissan Terrano off-roader.

the fastest super-mini on the road.

crumple zones and energy-absorbing side impact system.

Citroen Saxo VTS: upmarket refinements coupled with loads of street cred

And in less-than-extreme circumstances, the Saxo VTS is a pleasure to drive with loads of street cred and refinements more usually confined to larger, more expensive cars. The slide and filt sunroof, electric windows. power assisted steering, remote-controlled central locking and fourspeaker sound equipment make you feel pampered as well as sporty on

The car often drew admiring. perhaps even envious, glances; the sleek design enhanced by all-in-one body colour including door handles, deep sports chin spoiler with integrated front fog lamps and bumper skirts. All this mounted on 6J 14 alloy wheels

can be choppy. Watch out for heavy

or uneven tyre wear, unkempt interi-

■ MODERN cars consistently draw

criticism for uninspiring personality

and boring looks, but the VW

Corrado VR6, already gaining status

Simply, this is one of the best used

coupés now available. The Corrado

VR6, with its supremely smooth and

powerful V6 engine, matches excel-

as a classic, has bucked the trend.

or trim and worn gearboxes.

clad in Michelin 185/55 RI4 SXGT tyres beneath flared wheel arches.

One annoying quirk, however, is that the front windows tend to rattle when half-open. The driving seat is obviously designed for the "imageconcious young motorists" which Citroën says the VTS is aimed at. These sporty youths are presumably assumed to be lithe and svelte because, although I am no youngster, I am not particularly obese, but the sports-style seat contours began to dig into my thighs after a few miles.

SAXO VTS

Engine: Four-

speed manual.

Performance:

cylinder, 1.6-litre

producing 120 bhp.

Transmission: Five-

0-60mph in 7.2 secs,

24.8mpg. extra urban 44.Smph. combined cycle 34.9mpg.

Equipment: Power

steering, anti-lock

brakes, twin airbags.

alarm/immobiliser.

slide/tilt sunroof.

Price: 511,995

top speed 127mph.

Economy: Urban

The sporty feel is enhanced inside with leather-trimmed gear lever and oil level indicator and oil temperature gauge. Electrically-adjusted heated door mirrors and internally adjustable headlamps also add to the sense of driver-pampering.

lent and confidence-inspiring handling to huge amounts of power and the bonus of ultra-solid build quality. Best buy is the 1992 K-reg car with

average mileage — likely to cost around £12,495 — but buying a Corrado VRo needs care. Any model with signs of accident damage, a life in the fast lane, or which comes in VW's ghastly yellow, should be avoided. Look out too for any damage to the costly alloy wheels, missing roof-mounted aerials (expensive to replace) leaking shock absorbers and noisy gearboxes. Crucially, verify that the car's mileage is genuine.



First Tempra
Launched in 1990, the Tempra is the four-door saloon/five-door estate
(badged the Station Wagon) version of First's Tipo. Available with 1.4.
1,6. 1,8 and 2-fire petrol engines, as well as 1.9 diesel and turbo
diesel, which was launched in 1992. Range uprated in 1992 with S
specification models getting an electric surroof, while the SX got
electric rear windows and central locking.

RAD NEWS:

GOOD NEWS: Well equipped across the range with all cars bar the base level 1.4-litre, coming with power steering and glass sunroot. From getting used to, as does the relatively upright sitting position which nevertheless does improve the view shead for driver and front steering and glass surricol. From 1992 all cars got fuel injection, catalyst and electric surroct, with immobilisers as standard from 1995. Estates come with horizontally split faligate allowing top half to open for shopping, lower half to open for longer loads.

AVOID:
Base models.
It might be better
to avoid them and
look instead for an SX
badged car for sheer conflort.
Adjustable steening column, rear LOOK FOR: LOOK FOR:
Cars from 1993. While looking very similar to lite earlier models, they benefit from uprated safety features including a stiffened and strengthened bodyshell, plus side impact beams set into the doors and strengthened from earlier the trades. This care Adjustable steering column, rea window surblinds, electric glass surroof and other toys including heated driver seat and lumbar adjust with automatic heating system, makes for an altractive package. more effective brakes. Twin-cam 2-litre tar and away the perkies and the most tun to drive with

The Tempra offectively gives the lie to the image of training the training of training the training that the Department of Transport 'Choosing Safety' ratings, ranked above average with the class-leading VW Golf and Volvo 300, and ahead of everything from the Towota

performance to match.

REPLACEMENT PARTS: (prices supplied by Glassmatix 01932-823809) Clutch assembly £145; full exhaust £436; catalyst £439; rear damper £33; front brakepade £48; alternator £201; starter motor £208; radiator Expect to pay £2,000 for a 1990

The electronic dashboard read-out looks slightly strange and takes some

INSURANCE:

Cover from AA Insurance (0800 444777) on a 1992 2-litre Fiat Tempra SX

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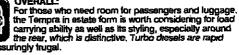
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\$21,950 | 96 P 2320 Coune Born

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Poetic justice for the mooning yobs

STEERING COLUMN

hearts of the nation's crooks, Roger Cook is known as the man who doesn't like to take yes for an answer as he exposes corruption. But away from his heavy duty microphone, his secret passion is for performance motoring - on both three and four wheels.

Inside the garage of Roger's West Country home is a curious assortment of speed machines, including a rare Ken Costello-prepared MGB GT V8, a BMW-powered Grinnall Scorpion threewheeler and, to meet a hectic work schedule, a Supercharged Jaguar XJR.

"I guess I'm what you might call an engineer manqué — I can't really work on cars, but I love them and love to be involved with them," he says. Born in New Zealand and prought up in and around Sydney, Roger's auto-addic-tion began in the outback: "It was easy to find abandoned rotting cars, tinker with them and turn them into usable

He came to England in 1968 to pursue a career in investiga tive broadcasting and the Cook Report returned to ITV for its 15th run on Tuesday with an investigation into "canned hunting", in which wealthy Europeans shoot trapped and drugged wild

How did you first learn

My first actual driving experience was at a sheep station driving a huge single-cylinder Lanz tractor. It was a booming monster with a stroke about four feet lang!

What was your first car? …

My father's Bullnose Cowley. which he gave to me when I was old enough to drive. The Cowley whetted my appetite, and before long I had a racing licence and a Fiat 850 TC Abarth -- which was as good a place as any to learn about the

Trying to insult TV investigator Roger Cook can lead to disaster even when he's

off duty, says Simon Hacker

challenge of understeer! My first proper sports car was a Singer Le Mans.

What car do you drive now,

I'm on my second XJR. Given the automatic box, it's a very sensible choice of transport: I live in it. Mine has one small change, though, which Jaguar took the trouble to make at my request: unlike the standard model, the chrome grille doesn't match the body colour -- it's nice to be able to have a personal influence on your car's final specification.

Do you like driving?

I like driving almost anywhere and I'm happy to use a car in most countries. You can overdose, of course, but the XJR does a sensible job, while allowing you to be enthusiastic at the same time. It adds up to two tonnes of metal which handles with all the ease of a

What is your most hated car?

I haven't got one. In fact, I don't think a manufacturer could get away with making a "bad" car now. There are none that I particularly dislike.

What is your dream car?

It changes according to my dreams, but I suppose I'm lucky with what I have my Grinnall Scorpion is apt if you dream of being close to the road and want all the thrills of



Cook and Jaguar XJR: "At my request, the chrome grille doesn't match the body colour -- it's nice to have an influence on your car's final specification"

a powerful motorbike, but with none of the spills. And when you want crude grunt, the MGB does the job. The Jaguar is the sophisticated express. Between them, I think they get to the parts one single car couldn't reach!

What is your worst habit in the car?

Being a nervous passenger, but I've learnt to let go now and can even sleep while on

What infuriates you most about other drivers?

Aggression, particularly the

sort of thing you see on the motorway. Driving habits are definitely more pushy in the UK than when I first arrived. I think much of it is not directed at you personally, but more because of what you are

I also have a nice revenge story about bad behaviour. I was once driving along in a nice car and some yobs in a Cortina estate came alongside me and recognised me. Their behaviour was well out of court and two of them moonied out of the back window. But a God-given opportunity for poetic justice arose: at the next traffic lights

trying to get a reaction from me that their car went straight into the back of a police patrol car. Try explaining that to an Well, you can take things too

What is the most unusual thing you have ever done in your car?

Pretending to be a property developer while staging a "sting" on a paramilitary ex-tortionist for the Cook Report. He was demanding money from me with a gun. The whole thing was being secretly filmed and I was wired up. It was quite dangerous. He was subsequently jailed for 12 they were so engrossed in

If you were Secentary of State or Transport, what is the first thing you would do?

far. Consumers - which includes motorists - have more protection that they realise.

What do you listen to in the car?

Not much. I like to drive in silence and if passengers are too chatty, I tend to glaze over. Have you ever had points on your licence?

Since I came here in 1968 I've only committed three offences

- all for speeding - although the first time I was only four or five miles an hour over the limit, on a clear road. I asked the officer at the time if he might exercise his discretion and he said "That's exactly what I'm doing."

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What's your favourite car advertisement?

don't watch much TV because I'm too busy making it, but I love Saab's approach: the visual transformation between a car and plane is a very successful image and, having owned Saabs in the past, I think it's true to the spirit of their cars.

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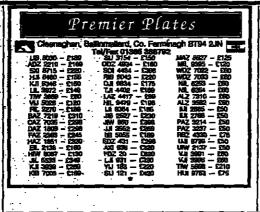
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It's a long way off Route 66, but Southampton is where Harley Davidson owners get their kicks, says Kate Laven





John Potter, whose children told him to transform his image if he was to run Dockgaie 20 Motorcyles, where the showroom is filled with the roar of Milwaukee iron thunder and satisfies every whim and urge of a Harley Davidson owner

Dockgate 20, paradise for HOGs

ohn Potter's teenage children were the first to suggest that he should transform his image if he was to be the owner of the largest Harley Davidson dealership in Europe.

Even if the Southampton location wasn't exactly as hip as West Coast America, he still needed to demonstrate an understanding of the icon and

its following, his kids told him. Presiding over the recent opening of the dealership, the Kent businessman, who has ploughed £1.5 million into the new project, looked like any other punter, yet one quick look over his "shop" and there is no doubt that Potter, bandana or no bandana, is utterly in tune with his market.

Dockgate 20 Motorcyles could well have been named to evoke images of a Californian quayside - shotgun exhaust, chrome headlight and Peter Fonda lookalike against a

moody sunset background. Instead it was named to take advantage of all the signs that

Tama, on 3,224 points.

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distance out of the city directing truckers to the Dockgate container terminal. It's optimum use of available resources, says Potter, who describes himself as businessman first, passionate biker

second. Together with his managing director, the former Australian motorcycling champion Paul Lewis, he kitted out the specially-converted premises to take maximum advantage of the universal adoration for Harley Davidson machines and the lifestyle that ownership affords.

As a result, he has created not merely a bike shop but a unique cult centre satisfying every whim and urge a Harley owner might experience in the space of a lifetime.

What Harley owners love to do best when they are not actually riding the legendary bike is to talk about riding it with other bikers. They love to

are urged to park up and chill out in the diner with a cup of frothy coffee and a band of like-minded HOGs (Harley Owners Group members) for

What do they own, what have they owned, what would they own and what accessories would they bolt on? This is what they talk about and there are plenty of heftily priced items displayed around them to stimulate the imagination. The diner, incidentally has

also found favour among apprentices from the next door industrial estate who are attracted by the burgers, the view and an opportunity for a shoot out on the pool table.

Since posing is a big part of Harley ownership, a third of the 11,000 sq ft showroom is devoted to merchandise, mostly in the ubiquitous black and

The rows of leather jackets.

One game worth £250.

A TIMES NEWSPAPERS COMPETITION

Play Fantasy Formula One

Prizes worth £40,000 Marlboro

for mini-HOGs and other paraphernalia is a spectacular exhibit in itself.

It appeared untouchable, although the 3.000 people who turned up for the launch found it highly touchable and handed over huge wads of notes for the privilege of bearing the famous name somewhere about their body, as Potter and Lewis suspected they might. Add to all this an insulated

booth where bikers can go and have their noise and power output measured and documented - for bragging purposes in the diner - the image-enhancing music and the grins that appear on people's faces when the roar of Milwaukee iron thunder fills

> The appeal of the Harley Davidson in Southampton might come as a surprise to those who see the city purely

the showroom and you have a

e-stop indulgence shop.

boots, the branded babygros in the Premier League, But, according to customers and management, there is much about the place which makes it the perfect South Coast location. Forget Route 66 and Malibu beach. Consider instead the M27 and Bourne-

> is surrounded by motorways, which are ideal terrain for Harleys, and there are lots of good beaches in the region where one can go and pose,' says Sue Robinson, a Southampton general practitioner. one of the first of a dozen customers to place an order

before Dockgate 20 had opened its door to the public. To Potter and Lewis, the reasons for choosing Southampton were less esoteric. We did a lot of research

and found that Southampton had a strong HOG 'chapter' in the New Forest and ranked quite high as far as disposable income was concerned and both of these were important."

Potter had owned a Harley Davidson for two years before the idea for a dealership struck: "I thought it might be really enjoyable to be part of this whole environment and atmosphere," he explains, eyes

pany in Broadstairs for more than ten years.

"I was with the Harley Davidson guys looking at some property in Southamp-ton one day and they said We want you to take a look at the other bidder. Paul Lewis. because everyone loves him and he is a good operator'. I went into his shop and mystery shopped him. He sold me a leather jacket and a pair of Oakley sunglasses inside ten minutes and I thought This

guy is really good'. Inevitably there have been some arguments along the way, but the partnership has become more dynamic as it has matured.

"It wasn't until we saw this building that we started to really talk about how we wanted the place to look and feel though we both knew we did not want a boutique. We sat down and addressed every aspect of the business from the people perspective, both staffwise and customer.

The property developer who like a lot of their suppliers and advisers, a Harley owner. Some of those who did not previously own a Harley have now become customers. All the staff are committed devotees of the marque.

The initial success of Dockgate 20 lies in the recognition that this sort of passion can be embraced, harnessed and put to effective commercial use without any accompanying cynicism to spoil the fun. It leaves you wondering what Potter and Lewis would do if they had a caravan

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Paul Lewis: "I thought it might be really enjoyable to be part of this whole environment"

Park, unfold and pedal away

aunching its vision for the future, the RAC has gone back to when mini skirts and the Beatles were more likely to be on the lips than conge tion, air pollution and global

warming. The club has developed a new image, backed up by high profile advertisements, for the 21st century to reflect modern environmental concerns.

Part of this vision includes its RAC All Purpose Bicycle, a folding machine designed to pop in the boot or be carried on the train. It may appear a futuristic machine and a key weapon in the war to reduce dependence on the car for short or commuter journeys.

But its design and pedigree dates back to the Sixtles when Sir Alex Moulton, designer of the first popular small wheeled bicycle which sold hundreds of thousands. And the RAC bike is an updated

design by Sir Alex who.

among his many claims to fame, designed the suspension systems for the Metro and the new MG. Hand-built by

Pashley Cycles of Stratford-upon-Avon, the RAC bicycle is a gleaming black and silver machine with all the Moulton hallmarks. At 20in, the wheels are 3-4in bigger than those the Sixties machine, but significantly smaller than those on a conventional adult

bicvcle, The latticed frame, with its zigzag struts of metal.

The RAC has turned the clock back

to the Sixties with a new Moulton

bike. Nick Nuttall went for a spin

The RAC All Purpose Bicycle: reflecting modern environmental concerns

is rigid and strong, to minimise twisting and allow the rider to deliver maximum power to the pedals. Suspension systems on both wheels enable the cyclist to ride over rather than disappear into. potholes. In the classic Moulton way, the new bicycle splits into two parts for storage using an allen key housed under the seat.

However, the look is decidedly contemporary, and owes much to the popular moun-tain bike. It has a Sturmey Archer 7-speed hub gear system which simply twists on the handlebars.

may remain wedded to big wheeled bikes. Sir Alex believes his designs remain su-

While the rest of the world

perior. On a recent visit to the engineer's house in the heart of the Gloucstershire countryside, he was keen to stress the. virtues of small wheeled

Ironically, his competition

for a South Coast franchise

turned out to be Lewis, who

ran a flourishing motorbike accessories shop in Southamp-ton but, instead of pitching

them against each other, the

team at Harley Davidson UK

spotted their potential as a

partnership and gently nur-

Lewis had vision and years

of experience in competitive

motorbiking but no immedi-

ate access to funds. Potter on

the other hand had money but

was short on experience of the

retail motorcycle industry,

though he had run his own

tured it.

"Look at the Lotus bike which did so well in the Olympics. Chris Boardman may have achieved 35-36mph an hour on it at the Olympics, but the world record for a fully streamlined bicycle in a conventional position is held by us at 51mph," he said.

The record of 51.29mph was achieved by Jim Glover in Vancouver, Canada, on Au-

gust 29, 1986. Smaller wheels can improve acceleration, speed and roadholding and allow the rider to maintain a tight

"That's Tommy Simpson. the greatest cyclist of that period on a Moulion Speed."

position behind a competitor on a large-wheeled machine, claims Sir Alex.

he said, poring over photo-graphs of celebrities riding his cycles during the Sixties. "He said that if he had not been racing for Peugeot, he would have chosen to ride a Moulton. That was before the regulations [prohibiting wheels smaller than 27 inches in diameter came in." The various guises of the original Moulton sported loin

or 17in wheels whose tyres were not widely available. But the popularity of BMX bicycles means that 20m tyres are easy to find. Riding the new machine is certainly fun but also a com-

promise. Little wheels allow much faster acceleration from traffic lights but can become a touch tiresome when pedal-

ling over large distances Which, on a bigger bike at high speed. can be covered more quickly.

The suspension. while smooth, also seems to consume some of the cy clist's energy which might be better directed at

propulsion. Nevertheless in cities it offers an eye-catching icon as you sail past car and lony drivers bumper to bump Purpose Bicycle costs £649, which may seem pricey but compares well with other hand

made machines.

POS TEAM NAME MANAGER NAME POINTS 1 Tama

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06 G Berger	10	425	12 M Salo	123	421
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13 O Panis	110	399	19 G Fisichella	119	286
14 J Verstappen	117	260	20 S Nakano	10	283
15 U Katayama	115	268	21 N Larini	118	431
16 P Diniz	53	223	22 J Trulli	-3	361
17 R Rosset	0	0	23 J Magnussen	3	161
			24 V Sospini	G	0

	10 n acinumacii	es 23	230	24 4 SUSPIN	U	U
						72
	25 Williams	20	69	31 Arrows	-30	-53
	26 Ferrari	25	77	32 Sauber	10	54
,	27 McLaren	11	76	33 Tyrrell	18	21
1	28 Benetton	12	71	34 Minardi	6	37
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